

Israeli army officers stopped from meeting Arafat

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai banned two senior army officers from accepting an invitation to a meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, officials said Sunday. "The minister did not think it was correct to authorise this meeting because of the lack of security cooperation between the two sides," said Defence Ministry spokesman Avi Benayahu. The Haaretz newspaper said Mr. Arafat was unhappy about the cancellation of a meeting with General Gaby Ofir, the commander of Israeli forces in the West Bank, and his designated successor General Itzhak Eytan who is currently in charge of the Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat called the meeting last week to discuss security matters and the new Israeli army appointments.

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Israel threatens to get tougher in Hebron amid new violence

HEBRON (AFP) — Israel threatened to get tougher with the Palestinian population of Hebron Sunday in a bid to quell five weeks of unrest, as violence flared again in the heart of the West Bank city.

"If incidents as serious as attacks with automatic weapons and home-made bombs continue, life in Hebron will be very different," General Uzi Dayan, commander of Israel's central region, told military radio.

His warning came as Palestinian youths again took to the streets of Hebron Sunday, hurling stones and dozens of petrol bombs in running battles with Israeli soldiers around the narrow lanes of the old city's Arab market.

The soldiers retaliated with volleys of plastic-coated metal bullets, injuring four demonstrators and at least four journalists, witnesses said.

Three of the journalists — Palestinian cameramen working for the British news agency Reuters, the U.S. agency Associated Press and the American ABC network — were hit as they filmed youths burning an Israeli flag.

A Palestinian cameraman from Abu Dhabi Television was taken to hospital after being struck by a plastic bullet in the head.

Overnight, unknown attackers threw an explosive at an Israeli army post in Hebron for the second night running, military sources

said. Palestinian shopkeepers in Israeli-controlled streets near to the incident were forced by the army to close Sunday.

Members of the 400-strong militant Jewish settler community also tried overnight to set fire to the house of a Palestinian neighbour, Nabil Khalabi, the sources said.

Israel Radio said a special army unit has been tasked to film protesters with video cameras so that undercover units disguised as Palestinians can swoop on them and make arrests.

It also said that Israel is considering clamping further sanctions on the 120,000-strong Arab population of the city if the violence does not cool off.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday issued a statement after a cabinet meeting saying his government was "committed to the continuing existence and expansion of the Jewish settlement in Hebron."

Around 270 Palestinians and 20 Israeli soldiers have been wounded, most lightly, in the five weeks of clashes in Hebron.

On Saturday, around 100 Palestinian youths fought pitched battles with Israeli soldiers in Hebron, throwing rocks, bottles and Molotov cocktails at soldiers who responded with plastic bullets, injuring nine demonstrators.

Jewish settlers also buried

rocks at Palestinians from the roofs of buildings inside heavily-guarded enclaves, before Israeli soldiers intervened and forced them inside.

The protests against the four-month stalemate in the peace process have escalated in recent days after a brief lull caused by a massive Israeli security clampdown.

Unidentified attackers raked Jewish houses in the city with automatic weapons fire last week, causing no injuries, and a Palestinian factory was burnt to the ground in an attack claimed by militant settlers.

The Israeli army has set up roadblocks on all main arteries leading into Hebron, in a move which Palestinians say is strangling the economy of the entire southern West Bank.

Under a January accord, 80 per cent of Hebron is controlled by the Palestinian authorities while the remaining 20 per cent, where the 400 settlers and 10,000 Arabs live, remains under Israeli military control.

Israel's "get tough" warning came as several Palestinians told AFP they were severely beaten by Israeli soldiers at checkpoints near the West Bank town of Bethlehem Sunday.

"They started beating me with iron bars on my face, they broke my nose and they pushed me many times against a wall," said Mohammad Ali Sala, 21.

Israel destroys house of Arab family in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israel Sunday completed the demolition of a Palestinian home in Arab east Jerusalem which was partially knocked down two months ago, witnesses said.

Dozens of Israeli border guards sealed off the area around the house in the Arab neighbourhood of Silwan below the Old City's Al Aqsa Mosque compound while a bulldozer razed the building to the ground.

Three rooms of the one-year-old building were knocked down by Israeli soldiers on May 28, but the process was halted after the owner presented a court order suspending the process.

Israel regularly knocks down Palestinian houses built in Arab east Jerusalem without permits, which are very rarely handed out by the Israeli authorities.

"They came today to finish what they did two months ago. They are not allowing us to finish the building started one year ago," said Nabil Ramadan Ashour Banna, 42, a taxi driver.

"I live with my two married brothers and our mother and our children. A total of 25 people in a three-bedroom house. We wanted to extend the house and we went to get a permit, but they refused saying it is an archaeological site," he added.

"But I have to build, there is no other way. And I build without permission, like everybody else," he said.

Mr. Banna said he had been approached by Jewish settlers with an offer to buy his house seven years ago, and that he thought the demolition was designed to put pressure on him to sell.

The Banna house was some 20 metres away from a courtyard bought in 1991 by Jewish settlers who have since built several rooms there.

Mohammad Rizq, 30, added: "Soldiers beat me on my arms and broke both of them."

The Palestinians walked out of peace talks in mid-March after Israel started construction of a new 6,500-home Jewish settlement on the edge of historically Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali receives senior Palestinian official, Nabil Shaath, Sunday. Mr. Shaath also met with His Majesty King Hussein to discuss current affairs (Photo by Yousef 'Allan)

PNA-Israel confidence building offers slim chance — Shaath

By Tareq Atayab
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday met with senior Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath who conveyed a message from Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agency said that the message focused on "obstacles that impede negotiations (with Israel) and the Palestinian stand regarding the impasse that the peace process is facing."

The agency added that the message also included the "Palestinian perceptions to overcome the deadlock and efforts exerted in this regard."

Petra said that during the meeting, His Majesty stressed the need to exert

all possible efforts necessary to overcome peace process hurdles.

Dr. Shaath told reporters following his meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali that the Palestinian side believe that "confidence building measures between Israel and the Palestinians have a slim chance to succeed."

Dr. Shaath was commenting on a meeting he held with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai at the residence of the Egyptian ambassador to Israel, Mohammed Basyouni, in Hertsilia last Thursday.

The two officials agreed on some confidence-building measures that would pave the way for the resumption of the four-month-old stalled peace talks.

"Allowing us to operate the airport, to build the harbour, to operate the safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to free prisoners, and to continue redeployment. All of these are commitments that Israel should have implemented before," Dr. Shaath said following his meeting with Dr. Majali.

"Now if it (Israel) implements these measures, it will create confidence between the two parties and will allow us to proceed," he added.

"Proceeding then would require freezing all settlement activities and going immediately into the permanent settlement

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Qatar may have to cancel MENA summit — League

KUWAIT (R) — Qatar might cancel a regional economic summit unless Israel changes its policy, an Arab League assistant secretary general was quoted Sunday as saying.

Abdul Rahman Sibham told Al Rai Al-Aam daily more Arab states were now opposed to holding the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in Doha in November due to what they see as Israel's blocking of peace talks with Arabs.

"If it convenes, it will be just a gathering with Israel's participation, a limited number of Arab states and some representatives of foreign firms and countries," said Mr. Sibham who is in charge of economic affairs.

Ambassador Sibham sees that Qatar could have to cancel the MENA conference if there is no change in Israel's policy, the Kuwaiti daily said.

Oil spill off UAE threatens water supplies and beaches

DUBAI (R) — A barge suspected of carrying more than 5,000 tonnes of Iraqi diesel has run aground off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) causing a slick that threatens part of the oil state's drinking water supplies and beaches, Gulf shipping sources said Sunday.

The 75 metre-long barge Safa 255 had spilled some 2,500 tonnes of its diesel cargo into Gulf waters by Sunday as a salvage operation got under way to close the manhole covers to the barge's 18 tanks and refloat the stranded vessel, they said.

"Fortunately the barge is still intact... we suspect she's okay. The gas oil leaked because water came in over the deck and through the manhole covers which replaced the gas oil in the tanks," said Seraj Alali, managing director of Salvage Contractor Whitesea Shipping Company.

Whitesea Shipping will lighten the vessel late Sunday or Monday before attempting to lift it from the shallow sea floor.

UAE-registered Safa 255 lost control and was beached off the coast of the emirate of Sharjah after its tow-ropes to a tug hauling the barge snapped Friday in heavy winds.

A shipping source said the barge had not been designed for transporting petroleum products but was a general cargo vessel that had been adapted.

"It basically sank because it was carrying too much diesel and it couldn't power or direct itself when the tow-ropes were lost," another shipper said.

Barges and other small vessels regularly transport Iraqi diesel and other petroleum products in violation of United Nations sanctions in the shallow waters of the Gulf.

Iraq has only been permitted to resume sales of its crude oil since December under a strictly enforced U.N. oil-for-food deal under which it exports only crude oil rather than products such as gas oil. Iraq has not officially exported oil since June because of an argument over aid distribution.

UAE government agencies were reported to have taken samples of the spill diesel for analysis and it was too early to confirm the source of the diesel.

The spill had forced the shutdown of a 20 million gallon-a-day water desalination plant in Sharjah which is the main source of drinking water for the emirate's 500,000 people.

"We have had no water since yesterday. We cannot even brush our teeth," said one Sharjah resident.

(Continued on page 3)

Two Israeli soldiers injured in occupied south Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Two Israeli soldiers were injured Sunday in an attack by Hizbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon, officials said, sparking a retaliatory Israeli bombardment.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli military spokesman said the two soldiers were injured during a clash with Hizbollah fighters in the central part of the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

The Voice of Lebanon, the radio station of the South Lebanese Army (SLA), said the soldiers received treatment for their wounds on the scene.

In a statement released in Beirut, Hizbollah said its fighters opened fire with automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets on an Israeli position in the area of Dabsh.

Hizbollah militants also attacked an Israeli position near Ali Taher and opened fire on an Israeli tank heading for the position, it said.

In response, Israel bombarded the village of Kfaribnit on the central sector of the zone with around 60 shells, seriously damaging five houses and destroying two cars, a Lebanese police officer said.

"At least two families escaped death after the Israeli shells partly damaged their homes while

they were sleeping early Sunday morning," he added.

An Israeli soldier was slightly injured Thursday in a Hizbollah attack in the buffer zone set up by Israel in southern Lebanon to prevent attacks on its northern border.

Twelve Israeli soldiers have been killed and 51 injured in southern Lebanon since the beginning of the year.

The latest Hizbollah attack came a day after a Lebanese civilian was killed in an Israeli bombardment in southern Lebanon. Israel expressed regret over the death.

Scepticism alongside optimism at Medpartenariat conference

By Ghaffar Afaf
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While Jordanian businessmen were sceptical that the Medpartenariat gathering in Amman would lead to solid joint venture projects with European companies, their visiting counterparts expressed high hopes that the meeting would yield positive results.

"European businessmen are coming here to sell their products, only few of them wanted to establish joint ventures," Samer Zureikat from the Yamama Agricultural Products Industrial Company said Sunday.

A representative from Northern Ireland, Frank

Galbraith said Jordan's "tremendous competitive advantage and high managerial skills," that could lead to future joint ventures between companies from Jordan and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Galbraith, whose company provides managerial services, complimented the level of Jordanian companies participating at the meeting, and expressed willingness to exchange services with businessmen in the Kingdom.

The representatives of the Italian delegation said they were satisfied with results achieved in Amman. Sara Bassotti, the counsellor of the Italian delegation, said that some contracts were already signed with Jordanian companies, but did not elaborate.

Most of the 150 Jordanian companies present at the gathering appeared eager to penetrate European markets and stressed the need to market Jordanian products that enjoy a competitive advantage.

"We could provide European countries with access to Arab markets and they could in return assist us in penetrating non-traditional markets," said Amer Malakh, a Jordanian participant from the pharmaceutical sector.

However, Khaled Kurdi from the Advanced Engineering Technologies Corporation said: "Jordan will

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JORDANIAN FOOTBALL IN BEIRUT: Jordanian Amjad Taher Hamad, 15, (centre) pushes with his colleague Abdullah Mohammed Abu Zame'a, 18, (right) and the Lebanese attacker Wartan Ghazarian, 14, (left) during a match resulting in a draw at the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut's stadium Sunday (see story on Games on page 11) (Reuters photo)

Israel turns on Palestinian official over flag-burning

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Frayed Israeli-Palestinian relations plummeted to a new low Sunday after Israel reacted with fury to pictures of a senior Palestinian official trampling on the ashes of a burnt Israeli flag.

Israeli politicians from across the ideological spectrum turned on Ahmed Qureia, the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council, after protesters burned the Star of David in front of him Sunday.

But Mr. Qureia defended his actions, saying he did not take part in the flag burning at a protest in the West Bank city of Ramallah and warning that the incident indicated the level of anger in the Palestinian territories.

Television pictures showed Mr. Qureia, considered a moderate who helped seal the 1993 Oslo peace accords, watching as youths burned an image of the flag before walking over the spot where ashes had gathered.

Dozens of Israeli flags — usually crudely painted on pieces of cloth — have been burned in violent protests in the West Bank in recent weeks, but in the current politically-charged

climate the presence of Mr. Qureia at such an incident has touched a raw Israeli nerve.

"This shameful action destroys confidence and insults every Israeli and every Jew," said Danny Nevah, spokesman for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli opposition leader Ehud Barak called the incident a "degrading act" and urged Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to publicly condemn it.

But in an interview with the Israeli Maariv daily Mr. Qureia, also known as Abu Alaa, played the incident down.

"I did not burn any flags, but the young Palestinians are boiling with anger. I did not know they were going to burn this flag. And who knows what they will burn next time," he said.

"The Israeli government is pushing the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) into desperate straits and as it (PNA) is losing the confidence of Palestinians on the streets, who are becoming desperate," he added.

A measure of Palestinian anger over the collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process was evident Sunday in the West Bank

Israelis arrested for trying to burn Palestinian flag

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Five Israeli right-wingers were arrested Sunday for trying to burn a Palestinian flag outside the unofficial Palestinian headquarters in Arab east Jerusalem, police said. Israeli police succeeded in stopping the activists from the outlawed and Arab group Kach from burning the flag outside the Oriental House. The action of the extremists came in retaliation for the burning of an Israeli flag on Saturday by Palestinians in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

city of Hebron, where Palestinian youths clashed again with Israeli forces occupying 20 per cent of the city.

More than 300 Palestinians and 18 soldiers have been hurt in almost daily clashes in Hebron over the past five weeks.

Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiations have been stalled since Israel began building Jewish settlements on a hill in occupied Arab east Jerusalem in mid-March, but in recent days Israeli officials have expressed concern the security situation in the Palestinian territories is worsening.

In further signs of tension, Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai stopped two senior army officers from holding a meeting with Mr. Arafat, and a Palestinian house built without an Israeli permit was razed in Arab east Jerusalem.

Ahmad Tibi, an adviser to Mr. Arafat, pinned the blame for the deterioration firmly in Israel's court and said it was inevitable youths would express their anger by burning Israeli flags.

"It is a natural reaction to the current situation of conflict," Mr. Tibi told Israeli radio.

The Palestinians are demanding an end to all settlement building before they return to the negotiating table, something Mr. Netanyahu has rejected out of hand.

Turkish president regrets number of journalists who remain in jail

ANKARA (R) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel Sunday expressed regret at the number of journalists imprisoned in Turkey at a meeting with a Western delegation of reporters seeking their release. Anatolian News Agency said.

"I am sorry that Turkey is the country with the highest number of journalists in prison," Mr. Demirel told reporters at a meeting with members of the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) at the presidential palace.

The delegation was led by Terry Anderson, a former Associated Press reporter held hostage in Lebanon for seven years. The group was also to meet Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and other politicians to protest at media freedom violations.

At least 78 journalists are jailed in Turkey over charges connected with their work, according to CPJ figures.

Most are imprisoned under Turkey's anti-terrorism laws for spreading "separatist propaganda" in reporting the insurgency by Kurdish rebels seeking self-



Turkish President Suleyman Demirel (right) receives a book from U.S. journalist Terry Anderson, deputy chairman of the Committee to Protect Journalists, Sunday, during a visit by a delegation asking for freedom for jailed Turkish journalist Isik Yurtcu (Reuters photo)

rule in the southeast of the country.

Mr. Demirel said work was continuing on reforming the legal framework for press freedom and said this had to be seen in the context of the conflict with the separatist Kurdish Labour Party

(PKK).

"If somebody supports terrorism, whoever it is, our people cannot support them," he said.

Turkey's armed forces have fought the PKK since 1984 in a bitter struggle which has killed more than

25,000 people.

On Wednesday, the delegation is to visit jailed editor Ocak Isik Yurtcu, now in the third year of an almost 16-year sentence. The CPJ last November gave Mr. Yurtcu its International Press Freedom Award.

Kuwaiti MPs call for slowdown in reconciliation

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A group of deputies have called on the government to slow down the pace of reconciliation with Arab states accused by Kuwait of siding with Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, a deputy said Sunday.

Deputy Hassan Jawhar said 10 deputies submitted a non-binding "recommendation that the government should not go very fast in normalising relations between Kuwait and governments which sided with Iraq during the invasion."

Mr. Jawhar, one of the supporters of the proposal submitted Saturday, said the move was prompted by signs of rapprochement with Jordan, Sudan and Yemen, and that speeding up reconciliation was opposed by a "majority in parliament."

Kuwait froze ties with all three Arab states after they failed to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Kuwait has a charge d'affaires in all three countries, but their respective embassies here are closed.

Last week, Kuwait and Jordan resumed air links by their national carriers and a Sudanese minister of state visited here for the first time since 1990 carrying a letter for Emir Sheikh Jaber Ahmad Sabah.

A Kuwaiti delegation of academics also travelled to Sanaa last week and met Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, although the government said this was a private initiative.

"MPs want the Foreign Minister (Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Sabah) and the cabinet in general to slow down until the Kuwaiti people are prepared and ready" for restoring links, Mr. Jawhar said.

Diplomats say restoring full diplomatic ties is likely to be a slow process despite the initiatives, which they say are mainly aimed at preparing public opinion.

Sheikh Sabah, who is also currently acting prime minister, said last month that normalisation with certain Arab countries "which adopted a pro-Iraqi stance will take place in the near future."

Parliament also held two secret sittings last month to discuss the government's foreign policy, including normalisation.

Apart from Jordan, Sudan and Yemen, Kuwait also accused the Palestinian leadership of Yasser Arafat of supporting Baghdad after the invasion and froze ties.

Iraq mocks Lebanon's lack of independence on Arab Games

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq, left out in the cold, mocked Lebanon's independence Sunday for barring Iraqi athletes from the Pan-Arab Games under pressure from financial backers Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Official Iraqi newspapers, however, carefully avoided any criticism of Syria, which controls Lebanon but still allowed the athletes to protest at the Lebanese border, where they were refused entry visas.

"The fact that the Lebanese authorities banned the entry of Iraqi athletes in exchange for a 'million-dollar profit' shows that this government does not respect the independence of Lebanon and sold out at a low price," said Babel.

"The Lebanese government has denied Lebanon's dignity," said the newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday. It questioned "this government's ability to represent the country and embody its independence and freedom."

"What is the value of independence and sovereignty if the government of a country fails to defend them and if its decisions can be bought with ill-gotten gains?" it asked.

"The actions of the scum of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and those who followed them, salivating at the sight of dollars, will remain branded in the red iron of shame forever," raged another newspaper, Al Qadisiya.

Almost 100 Iraqi athletes wound up a two-day protest at the Syrian-Lebanese border Saturday, as the Arab Games opened in Beirut.

"We are leaving with lots of bitterness in our hearts because of this inhospitable change of

attitude and the fact that our Lebanese brothers have been the victims of Kuwaiti blackmail," said the team leader, Asil Tabra.

Despite an Arab League invitation for Iraq to take part in the July 12-27 games, the Lebanese government imposed the ban after pressure from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, two major aid donors to its post-war reconstruction programme.

Kuwait threatened to boycott the games if Iraq take part. The emirate contributed \$6 million and Saudi Arabia \$20 million for the reconstruction of the Beirut Sports City, venue of the games.

The ban was welcomed in Kuwait.

"This decision is the most important medal the Lebanese could award us," said the president of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Ahmad Fahd Sabah, whose father was killed in Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

But Al Thawra newspaper in Baghdad called on the Arab League to punish the Lebanese government for "violating its decision to invite Iraq."

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid tried in vain last week to persuade Lebanon to allow the Iraqi athletes to contest the games for the first time since the 1991 Gulf war which liberated Kuwait.

There was no official word on the implications of the ban on ties with Beirut, Lebanon, which cut diplomatic relations in 1994 after an Iraqi dissident was assassinated in Beirut, has recently been reactivating trade links with Iraq.

Palestinians open Jerusalem shopping festival

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinians in Arab east Jerusalem opened a shopping festival Saturday to encourage commercial and cultural nightlife in an area suffering under Israeli security measures.

Palestinian merchants hoped the event would spark commercial activity in Arab east Jerusalem, which has been cut off from the Gaza Strip and other parts of the West Bank by protracted Israeli closures.

"This festival is to confront the Israeli plan of isolating Arab Jerusalem, its economic resources from the rest of the West Bank," Hassib Nashashibi, a festival committee member, told Reuters.

"It's important to break the Israeli siege and reactivate commercial movement which has been handicapped by this siege," Mr. Nashashibi said.

Hundreds of people gathered for the opening ceremony at one of the old city's gates where a Palestinian official spoke and a popular Arab singer, Reem Banna, broke the usual silence of the city's muted evenings.

The Jerusalem shopping festival is offering discounts in local shops and on hotel rooms to encourage participation. The festival has also introduced daily walking tours of the Old City and has scheduled concerts.

Festival organisers said they want to fill what have

become empty streets by sunset and hope to do so by keeping shops open and bringing in entertainment.

Israel imposed a closure on Gaza and most of the West Bank after three years ago for security reasons, making it difficult for most Palestinians to frequent shops in Arab east Jerusalem.

Israel seized Arab east Jerusalem after the 1967 Middle East war and claimed the whole city as its capital. The claim is not recognised internationally. Palestinians want Arab east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state.

"We've asked Palestinians in Israel to come to the festival and they have come, so

if Israel aims to empty Jerusalem of its Arab residents and destroy its economy by the closure in order to Judaize it, it won't happen," said another organiser, who did not want to be identified.

On the opening night popular Arab singer from Tunis, Lutfi Bushnaq, performed a concert in one of the city's archaeological sites. Other groups from Algeria and Morocco are scheduled to perform during the two-week festival.

"This is the first step in a long-term programme to support the steadfastness of the (Palestinian) people of Jerusalem," said Palestinian official Faisal Hussein.

Hawatmeh warns of uprising against Arafat

DUBAI (AFP) — A Palestinian opposition leader warned Sunday that a new anti-Israeli uprising is brewing in the autonomous territories but this time it will also target the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Yasser Arafat.

The unrest in the territories is "a dress rehearsal for a big uprising which has become inevitable," said Nayef Hawatmeh, leader of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Mr. Hawatmeh told Al Khaleej daily in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that the uprising would be aimed against Israeli occupation and settlements "but also against the Palestinian National Authority if it continues with its dictatorship and corruption."

Corruption and the multiple security services have been eating up 91 per cent of the Palestinian budget, he charged.

The DFLP leader said

he has proposed a reconciliation dialogue with Mr. Arafat on the condition that he "makes goodwill gestures and halts all negotiations with Israel until the (Jewish) settlements are stopped."

Mr. Hawatmeh also said Israel was blocking his return to the Palestinian territories as well as of George Habash, leader of the opposition Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Both the DFLP and PFLP are opponents of

Mr. Arafat's autonomy deals with Israel.

With the peace process at a standstill because of Israel's settlement activity, around 260 Palestinians and 20 Israeli soldiers have been wounded in five weeks of clashes in the divided West Bank town of Hebron.

An intifada, or uprising, raged in the West Bank and Gaza Strip between 1987 and 1993 before the signing of the Declaration of Principles which led to limited Palestinian autonomy.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:40 Spirou
16:05 Neighbours
16:30 Deep Water Haven
17:00 Ocean Girl
17:15 Nature by Profession
17:30 French Programmes
18:15 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headline
19:35 Comedy Murphy
Brown
20:00 The Giant Nile
20:30 Babylon 5
21:10 Highlander
22:00 News in English
22:35 Law and Order
23:15 Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

04:02 Fajr
05:35 (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 Dhuhr
16:22 'Asr
19:48 Maghreb
21:21 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 545457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazarene Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to dip
slightly remaining around average

with winds northwesterly moderate

to active. In Aqaba, winds will be

northerly moderate and seas

calm.

Min/Max. temp. 21/31

Aqaba 27/40

Deserts 19/36

Jordan Valley 25/38

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 34, Aqaba 41 Humidity

readings: Amman 28 per cent.

Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalil Al Tashuq 757253

Dr. Bahjat Bader 832642

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 830432

Dr. Waqif Qaddumi 893542

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Nairokh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 347632

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Qanu 281484

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Dept. 630321

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abduli Tel. Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co. 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-533000

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

Zarqa National Hospital

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

..... (09)990490

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital

Greek Catholic Hospital

..... (02)755555

Ibn Al Nalees Hospital

..... (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital

..... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5,

where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights can be

supplied on phone 08 (52700).

01:20 Amsterdam, Damascus (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:45 Beirut (RJ)

09:10 Kuwait (RJ)

11:00 Casablanca (RJ)

11:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

Psychiatrists counsel against death penalty for Dakamseh

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two psychiatrists, in the case of Cpl. Ahmad Dakamseh the Jordanian soldier accused of killing seven Israeli schoolgirls in March, recommended Sunday that the accused not be convicted of premeditated murder.

The two expert witnesses, summoned by the Military Court to evaluate diverging reports regarding the psychological state of Cpl. Dakamseh, maintained that an assailant who suffers from an antisocial mental disorder is globally considered as guilty of lesser charge.

"Psychologists do not consider a murder committed by a person who suffers from [the antisocial] disorder as premeditated," according to Dr. Awmi George Saad.

"[Worldwide], if a person is convicted of murder, he is considered guilty of manslaughter," he added. "If declared guilty, he receives either a reduced sentence or is sent to an appropriate hospital."

Dr. Saad's testimony came one day after Cpl. Dakamseh's attorney, Hussein Mjall, cast aspersions on reports prepared by two military psychiatrist experts.

The court then summoned two psychiatrists to give a final evaluation on Cpl. Dakamseh's mental state.

Previous reports regarding Cpl. Dakamseh's mental state indicate that he suffers a mental disorder which incapacitates his ability to act.

However, yesterday Dr.

Saad told the court that psychological manuals describe cases such as that evidenced by Cpl. Dakamseh as "psychological impairments" which are "not considered diseases."

"Those who are affected by this disorder understand [that they have committed a certain] act and are able to differentiate between right and wrong, but fail to realise the impact of their deeds," he added.

A person affected by such a mental disorder "tends to be aggressive and might be compelled to satisfy certain sexual desires," he added.

The psychiatrist added that such persons are incapable of working long hours in which case they become "nervous and easily provoked."

Cpl. Dakamseh's colleagues previously testified that on March 19, the date of the shooting, the defendant had worked for 20 hours continuously. The defendant maintained that he was provoked by Israeli girls who, he said, teased him as he was performing his noon prayer at Baqoura, close to the Israeli border.

"If a person suffering from an antisocial mental disorder feels provoked, he tends to react in a compulsive manner such that he does not stop to consider the impact of his actions on those around him," according to Dr. Saad.

Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Jordan Dr. Nizam Saleh Abu Hilleh confirmed Dr. Saad's testimony.

According to Dr. Abu Hilleh, an antisocial disorder generally begins at a very young stage and can

be successfully treated if diagnosed before the age of 35 years.

"Different mental health manuals define a person suffering from this disorder and committing murder as not fully responsible for his act," the professor maintained. "[However], these manuals do not describe the accused as guilty of no responsibility over his acts."

"This means that the judge has the jurisdiction to rule as to whether to incarcerate him or otherwise recommend suitable treatment," Dr. Abu Hilleh stated. "English (psychiatrists) would describe this case as a failure of will as said person is unable to control his acts."

Following the court session, Defence Attorney Hussein Mjall expressed his satisfaction over the day's testimonies.

An attending legal expert, who requested anonymity, stated that the psychiatrists' statements mitigate the possibility of a death sentence in the case.

Cpl. Dakamseh sat quietly behind the black bars of his cage occasionally reading from the Koran.

His family members were permitted to attend the 90-minute session and clapped their hands and ululated when the defendant appeared.

Reporters were allowed to cover the session, but photographers were banned entry.

Presiding Justice Brigadier Ma'moun Khasawneh adjourned the session and fixed next Saturday as the date to issue a verdict in the case.

Opposition, independents to debate possible boycott of general elections

By Francesca Ciriaci
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Opposition parties and independents are expected to convene this evening to deliberate a possible boycott of the 1997 general elections.

The debate concerning the boycott was revived by a decision taken last week by the Shura Council of the Muslim Brotherhood, Jordan's strongest opposition movement.

In an historic statement, issued Wednesday, the Brotherhood's overall leader, Abdul Majeed Thneibat, announced that his movement called for a general boycott as a step aimed at pushing the government to "abolish all temporary laws."

Opposition parties have repeatedly voiced their dissent to amendments, introduced in May, to the 1993 Press and Publications Law.

These amendments have been strongly condemned by international press freedom groups.

The revision, introduced in the form of a temporary law, augmented topics considered forbidden to report, raised fines for violations of the law, and empowered courts to suspend publication of any paper found transgressing the law.

The opposition maintains that such new regulations, coinciding with preparations for this autumn's elections, might narrow political parties' opportunities to conduct effective campaigns.

Islamists and leftists have also objected to the means in which the Ministry of Interior is currently monitoring their financial resources and conducting inspections of their annual budgets.

In a letter to Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid two weeks ago, 11 opposition parties, grouped into the Higher Committee for Coordination among the opposition parties, strongly criticised the ministry's appointment of a private auditing firm to conduct these inspections.

They also complained that auditors were asking "some parties" for documentation unrelated to financial issues, such as "names and addresses of party members," a source from the Jordan's People Democratic Party told the Jordan Times.

The opposition deems the one-person, one-vote system, introduced by temporary law in 1993 and left unchanged by May's temporary Election Law, as aimed at minimising its presence in Parliament.

In a tribal society, opposition leaders say, voters tend to base their one vote on family and tribal affiliations, and not political considerations.

In a meeting with the press Saturday night, Mr. Thneibat invited opposition parties and independent personalities to develop a "national programme" based on constitutional reform.

The Brotherhood's decision to boycott the elections, he stressed, "is not a declaration of war, but a request for reform."

Most opposition parties, including some centrist parties, like the pan-Arabist Al Mustaqbal, held separate executive council meetings on Saturday night to discuss the Muslim Brotherhood's appeal to boycott elections and develop a national programme to achieve constitutional reform.

None of the parties' leaders, however, would disclose the results of Saturday's meetings.

Subsequent to an executive committee meeting, also Saturday, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) issued a statement saying that a final deliberation on whether to boycott the elections, thereby following the Muslim Brotherhood's earlier decision, had been postponed "in order to study the situation with other opposition parties and independent personalities."

"A reconsideration of the Election Law, the Press and Publications Law and the level of public freedoms in the country could pave the way for rectifying failures accumulated from 1993 until now," the statement said.

"On Monday, we will all present our points of view and agree on a common platform," Deputy and Ba'athist leader Khalil Haddadin told the Jordan Times, declining to elaborate further.

Majali lauds ministry role in stimulating investments

AMMAN (Petra) — In a visit to the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday affirmed that Jordan relies on local and foreign investments in order to stimulate the national economy.

The Kingdom considers the private sector as a main impetus to achieve that goal, he added.

"The basic elements for attracting investments are security, stability, modernisation and the creation of an opportune investment climate," Dr. Majali asserted.

The private sector can neither develop nor flourish without preparing the necessary infrastructure and facilities ensuring quick proceedings as regards investment operations, he added.

"This ministry serves as an important government department which connects with local, Arab and foreign investors," the prime minister stated. "Therefore, its employees are expected to act in an exemplary manner, reflecting the positive image of the country."

He called for closer cooperation between the ministry and other government departments in investment-related affairs.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hani Mulki outlined steps that his ministry has taken to facilitate procedures for investors and to coordinate with private sector organisations.

Speaker to visit Austria

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour Sunday left for Vienna at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a four-day official visit.

Mr. Srour will hold talks with his Austrian counterpart as well as senior Austrian officials on bilateral relations, recent political developments, the Middle East peace process and the role of Europe in accelerating development in Jordan and the region.

Previous to his departure, Mr. Srour stated that means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the parliamentary field and Arab-European parliamentary dialogue will be among the topics discussed.

He stressed Austria's importance in supporting both regional issues and the economy.

Mr. Srour lauded Austria's support of the Kingdom and of Jordan's policies regarding the establishment of a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Jordanian delegation to the meetings includes

Deputies Ali Abul Ragheb, Jamal Khreisha and Anwar Hadid.

Oil spill threatens UAE water supply

(Continued from page 1)

Beaches across the UAE's northern Gulf coast, already suffering from oil dumped by ships travelling in the strategic waterway, were also said by residents to be affected by the diesel which remained on the sea surface in patches of yellow.

But environmental damage and the threat to the Gulf's diverse marine life, which includes green turtles and dolphins, had been limited because temperatures of more than 38 degrees Celsius

had caused a large part of the diesel to evaporate.

Diesel, unlike crude oil or heavy fuel oil, is a light petroleum product which remains close to the water surface and forms a light film capable of being broken down and evaporated by the sun, rough seas and ocean winds, shippers said.

The UAE's largest oil spill was in 1994 when 16,000 tonnes of Iranian crude oil caused serious damage to the country's eastern coastline and its important fishing industry.

Last week, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa

said that Egyptian mediation, spearheaded by President Hosni Mubarak's political advisor Osama Al Baz, has failed to break the ice between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The Egyptian minister blamed Israel for the failure to achieve a breakthrough in the talks.

Tarawneh to meet with Qatari officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Foreign Affairs Faysal Tarawneh will attend a joint

Jordanian-Qatari committee meeting to open in the Qatari capital of Doha tomorrow.

The committee will evaluate the Middle East peace process, challenges facing the Arab World and ways to stimulate collective Arab action, Dr. Tarawneh stated Sunday.

The minister, who is leaving for Doha today at the head of an official delegation, affirmed that the joint

committee will review events impacting bilateral ties since the last committee meeting in 1996.

It will also cover the outcome of a visit to Jordan earlier this year by a Qatari economic delegation, he added.

The committee generally meets annually to examine progress in the implementation of joint agreements, according to Dr. Tarawneh.

Topics such as dual taxation, cooperation in judicial matters, the application of internationally-accepted

standards and specifications, investment promotion, and cooperation in electricity generation, health, land and maritime transport is also on the agenda, he explained.

The minister affirmed that the committee is also expected to sign a number of agreements after which the Jordanian delegation will meet with Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and other senior Qatari officials.

In reference to the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit, scheduled to convene in November in Doha, Dr. Tarawneh asserted that Jordan regards "the meeting as an annual event... but there is controversy now as to the timing of the conference in view of current political circumstances and the deadlocked peace process."

"During the 1995 Amman summit, participants agreed to hold the 1996 Cairo summit and another summit in Doha in 1997," he explained. "However, it is up to Qatar to extend invi-

tations for the conference."

Invitations have not been dispatched as some countries such as Syria and Lebanon have already declared their opposition to the meeting, the minister stated.

These countries did not attend previous summits nor meetings within the multilateral phase of the peace process, he added.

Other countries which did participate in previous summits have not yet officially declared their stand vis-à-vis the Doha summit.

"We, in Jordan, believe that these meetings have major benefits especially for the private sector as they serve as a real platform where businesspersons of various nationalities unite," he stated. "Jordanian participants can also benefit as they meet representatives of major banks, companies and financial institutions."

Members of public and private sector organisations will attend the meeting with the minister of foreign affairs.

'Social work volunteers to be recruited'

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development

Mohammad Khair Mamser Sunday announced the start of a project to recruit social work volunteers in Jordan.

He also set conditions for young men and women who express their interest in this work.

According to Dr. Mamser, political, social and economic developments which have affected the Kingdom over the past decades have created societal imbalances.

This has resulted in an increase in social problems, juvenile delinquency, crimes, disability, broken families, poverty and unemployment, he explained.

The situation has prompted the creation of charitable and voluntary societies in Jordan whose number has now risen to 700, the minister stated.

Dr. Mamser emphasised the ministry's determination that persons volunteer for social work as a contribution to the nation.

Voluntary work enhances the spirit of national belonging and participation in the execution of programmes designed to help local communities, he stated.

Citizens wishing to work with the ministry must abide by ministry rules and regulations, remain committed to their voluntary service, undergo training for social work and accept

whichever service has been directed by the ministry which will consider the volunteers' desires and strengths, Dr. Mamser affirmed.

Volunteers engaged by the ministry must not demand that they be given permanent work for monthly wages nor expect financial remuneration for their work nor compensation for any injury sustained in the course of their voluntary duty, he stated.

According to Dr. Mamser, volunteers will be given work in primary health care, cultural and artistic fields, social and sports affairs and working with scouts as well as other jobs as assigned by the ministry.

Meeting encourages water reduction

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting on water

consumption Sunday covered equipment which various institutions and companies might introduce to ration water use.

Equipment directed for this purpose can help reduce water consumption from between 30 to 50 per cent, participants said.

Members also reviewed a task force study from the Jordan Environment Society (JES), the Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) which three organisations sponsored the meeting.

Head of the Task Force Abdul Salam Kamal described the meeting as orienting various institutions and households on the use of equipment designated to reduce water consumption in Jordan.

According to one USAID representative, available water resources in the Kingdom hardly cover 75 per cent of the country's actual needs for domestic, industrial and agricultural purposes.

However, only 10 firms have installed water saving equipment from a total of 230

firms covered in the survey, he noted.

Equipment costs will be compensated through a long-term reduction of water use, he added.

Water Authority Secretary General Munther Khleifat asserted that efforts to replace water networks in Jordan, drill artesian wells, build dams and improve the management of water resources include employing non-traditional methods to provide water.

The Water Authority is replacing inefficient, antiquated pipes which have been reported leak up to half of the water pumped therein, he stated.

It is also launching public awareness campaigns to urge citizens to reduce water consumption, Mr. Khleifat said.

Factories, hotels and hospitals are encouraged to install special equipment to reduce water consumption, he added.

Seminar organisers demonstrated the various uses of water-saving equipment as well as a documentary on same.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

*"Espion Léve-toi" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabbal Weibdeh at 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE

*"Roman Aquaba Project by Marie Louise Russell at the American Center of Oriental Research (Tel. 846117), at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Works by Iraqi artists Ali Al Najjar and Zia Hussein at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5377996), until July 23.

* Art works by Salem Kan'an entitled "From Jerusalem to Nabatieh" at the Jordan River Designs showroom, Jabbal Amman, until July 15 (Tel. 613081).

* Photo exhibition entitled "Jerusalem in Danger" by Khalid Al Zaghaf at the Modern Educational School, Khaldia, until July 31.

* Photography exhibition by Jan Kassay, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabbal Weibdeh, until July 29.

* Paintings by Ali Al Ghoul at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al Ain, until July 31.

* Silver Jewelry exhibition at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

* Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition, showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Dar Al Funun, Jabbal Weibdeh, until July 24.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess inspects swimming team

IRBID (Petra) — Honorary President of the Jordanian Swimming Federation (JSF) HRH Princess Ghida Talal Sunday inspected a swimming training camp at Hassan Youth City in Irbid. The camp trains members of the national swimming team which will be taking part in the Arab Sports Tournament which already started in Beirut. Princess Ghida was briefed by team members and trainers on the week-long preparations for the Jordanian team's participation in the tournament.

10 killed in car accidents last month

AMMAN (Petra) — Ten people were killed and 38 injured in 723 accidents last month, according to a statistics bulletin issued by the Traffic Department Sunday. According to the bulletin, around 65 per cent of the accidents occurred in the Amman governorate, 10.4 per cent in the Zarqa governorate and 1.1 per cent in the Mafrqa governorate. Most of the individuals injured were aged between 10 and 20 years. Driving in the wrong lane accounted for 18.6 per cent of the accidents and 13.8 per cent resulted from not giving right-of-way. Disregard of traffic signs, reckless driving, loss of control over vehicles, surpassing the speeding limit and reversing wrongly were also listed as the major causes of these accidents.

Yemeni delegation on visit to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — A Yemeni police delegation Tuesday initiated a five-day official visit to Jordan during which it is slated to hold talks with Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Lt. General Nasouh Muhiiddin and senior PSD officers on prisoner rehabilitation. The delegation will visit Siwaga and Juweid rehabilitation centres as well as the Royal Police Academy.

JUST receives U.S. delegation

RAMTHA (Petra) — Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST) President Sa'd Hijazi Sunday received a delegation from the U.S.-based University of Willamette, currently on a visit to Jordan to study university education in the Kingdom.

Touqan presents credentials

BRUSSELS (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg Umayya Touqan Sunday presented his credentials to the European Commissioner Jacques Santer, who voiced his appreciation for Jordanian efforts and its pivotal role in the Middle East peace process. Dr. Touqan stressed the need for increasing European support to Jordan to buttress its efforts to foster democracy and liberalise its economy.

Shaath's visit to Amman

(Continued from page 1)

equation," the Palestinian official emphasised.

"This attempt is a part of the Egyptian initiative, with American support, that aimed at leading us to discuss a settlement freeze and to move into final status

talks," he said adding that "in my opinion hope to succeed in our efforts is very slim."

The Palestinian negotiator noted that the confidence-building measures "are not an alternative to a settlement freeze and the resumption of negotia-

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's separatist Basque ETA movement became the target of nationwide rage Sunday as the death of hostage Miguel Angel Blanco Garrido blazed across the media.

"Sons of Bitches," a headline shouted in the newspaper *Diario 16* soon after San Sebastian doctors announced Blanco Garrido's death in hospital at 5:00 a.m. (0300 GMT) Sunday, 12 hours after being shot twice in the head by his ETA captors.

Blanco Garrido, a 29-year-old municipal councillor, was kidnapped Thursday by the ETA, who threatened to kill him by 4:00 p.m. Saturday if its demands were not met — the first time in 14 years the organisation had made such an ultimatum.

They had asked for some 500 Basque separatists in jails across Spain to be relocated to the northern Basque region.

The government refused, and half an hour after the

ers were put in isolation to avoid violence from other inmates.

Clashes also broke out between ETA sympathisers and people mourning in the northern Basque town of Pamplona, where local authorities had suspended the day's famous running of the bulls in a mark of respect.

The incident was sparked when the separatist supporters burnt red scarves fixed to the town hall's gates as a symbol of mourning. Police intervened to calm the con-

es included a tavern called El Zulo, an expression used to describe an ETA hiding place for arms or a place to hold a hostage.

The Sunday papers also targeted Herri Basakua, with El Pais urging the public to "make life difficult for all those who support terrorism."

El Mundo published photographs of the 21 leaders of Herri Basakua with a caption blaming them for the situation leading to the killing.

Further demonstrations were announced for Sunday, but the government said it

"Two Bullets Fired At Us All," the respected El Mundo headlined, adding that unprecedented huge public rallies which had taken place across Spain Saturday had "redrawn the lines of Spain's political geography."

The tens of thousands who had protested Blanco Garrido's abduction Saturday "had not broken the murderers' will, but had at least succeeded in proving their isolation," El Mundo said.

El Pais agreed, saying the "enemies of the people" faced retribution from "a new, powerful weapon against terrorism: The active involvement and steadfast solidarity of the citizens."

Expiry of the deadline, Blanco Garrido was found, shot and in a coma, by railway tracks near San Sebastian.

Doctors at San Sebastian's Nuestra Senora De Aranzazu Hospital who had worked to save his life said he had suffered irreversible brain damage.

His death stirred deep anger among the thousands who had been holding overnight vigils for his survival.

Some 2,000 people in the town shouting "murderers" threw eggs at the party office of Herri Batasuna, the ETA's political wing.

Interior Minister Jaime Mayor Oreja said it was no time for either vengeance or weakness, but in the San-tona Jail in northern Spain authorities said ETA prison-

frontation, then deployed throughout the town.

Police said some 100,000 people had gathered in Saragossa and 50,000 in Madrid, with other protests in Barcelona, Burgos, Seville, Valencia, Valladolid and Santa Cruz in the Canary Islands.

In Bilbao, where Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar had led some half-a-million people Saturday demanding Blanco's release unharmed, local police officers managed to prevent the crowd lynching three youths who mocked and insulted some pacifists staging a vigil.

In Garro Blanco's home town of Ernuva, a fire broke out at the local offices of Herri Batasuna and arson was suspected. The prem-

were planned Monday in Madrid by the ruling party, and Basque employers called for an hour's work stoppage throughout the region the same day.

France, which also has a significant Basque community and which has been cooperating with Spain in tracking down ETA activists, offered a strongly worded condemnation of the murder Sunday.

Calling it "a cowardly and inhuman act," the Foreign Ministry said "France shares the emotion and the indignation provoked by this odious crime."

It added: "This tragic event only reinforces the determination of France and Spain to act together to combat terrorism."

MOSCOW (R) — Russia and its rebel region Chechnya have agreed a deal spelling out how they will fix a vital war-damaged pipeline to carry Azeri oil across Chechen territory to the Black Sea, Interfax News Agency said Sunday.

In a report from the Chechen capital Grozny, it said the Russian Energy Ministry and Chechnya's Yunko State Oil Company signed the detailed agreement late Saturday.

dent Khodzhaikmed Yari-khanov as saying.

The agency Saturday quoted Chechen and Russian officials as saying work would begin in the next few days to mend the 153 kilometres section of pipeline, and Moscow would pay.

Saturday's agreement was intended to flesh out a tripartite framework accord signed in the Azeri capital Baku Friday. Friday's accord was signed by Russian Energy Minister Boris

the work would take, nor when oil would begin to flow. The consortium, led by British Petroleum, wants to begin using the route later this year.

Chechnya has set itself up as a de facto independent entity since the war ended last August. The Kremlin regards Chechnya as one of 89 regions within the Russian Federation, although has adopted a pragmatic approach to several bilateral problems.

The pipeline, a key conduit for Azeri oil from Baku on the Caspian Sea to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk, was damaged during Russia's war with Chechen rebels.

The deal would allow Russian and Chechen companies to "make the necessary contacts and sign agreements to carry out joint work on restoring and using the oil pipeline". Interfax quoted Yunko President Mr. Yarlikhanov and the president of the Azeri state oil company Socar.

The deal, held up for months by bickering between the sides over the details, is intended to clear the way for crude output from an \$8 billion Western consortium developing offshore Azeri Caspian Sea fields to reach world markets.

It was not clear how long

Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agency said Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov had signed a customs agreement with Russia and met Russian Security Council Deputy Secretary Boris Bezovsky Saturday to discuss the pipeline and banking cooperation.

"The signing of these documents is an important step, although there are many more steps ahead," Mr. Bezovsky told Interfax.

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked a police post in eastern Sri Lanka Sunday, killing two people and losing one of their own men as the military gunned down nine rebels in the north, officials said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) staged a pre-dawn raid on Sinnawatte police in the district of Ampara and torched three huts before escaping, officials said.

"A police constable and a civilian in the area were killed," an official said, adding that police were able to successfully repulse the assault because they were expecting an attack and were ready to retaliate.

By Sunday morning, the body of a Tamil Tiger guerrilla had been recovered together with an automatic rifle, officials said. Shortly before the attack, the security forces killed nine Tiger guerrillas in two attacks in the north of the country, the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

Two days ago the LTTE opened fire at a police check point in northeastern Trincomalee district, killing eight people, including a pregnant woman and her two children, local officials said.

The guerrillas are leading a drawn out campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the separatist campaign since 1972.

Cuba blames people from U.S. for hotel explosions

HAVANA (R) — Cuba's Interior Ministry Saturday blamed people from the United States for bombing two Havana hotels in attacks that injured three people and damaged the hotels' lobbies.

"The Interior Ministry has evidence that the people responsible for these deeds and also the materials they used came from the United States," said a brief ministry statement read on state radio.

The statement said the explosions that rocked the lobbies of the Hotel Nacional and the Hotel Capri within minutes of each other around 11:35 a.m. local time (1535 GMT) Saturday were caused by "explosive artifacts."

It said they slightly wounded three people and caused damage to windows and furniture in the two hotels.

The statement did not give any further information. It did not say if anyone had been arrested in connection with the explosions.

The brief statement gave no indication of specific people suspected of being responsible for the blasts or what sort of evidence the Interior Ministry had.

However, official suspicion would be likely to fall on hardline exile opponents of President Fidel Castro in Florida, some of whom have carried out violent protests in the past.

Asked soon after the explosions what he thought caused them, Tourism Minister Osmany Cienfuegos, visiting the hotels shortly after the blasts, said: "Obviously they are enemies of ours."

Meanwhile, the first vessels of a protest flotilla organized by a Cuban-American anti-Castro group set sail early Sunday to the edge of Cuban territorial waters, just one hour after the U.S. Coast Guard released the group leader from detention.

Ramon Saul Sanchez, head of the anti-Castro movement, was released after one hour in custody and warned that any protest ship he boards would be impounded.

ers were put in isolation to avoid violence from other inmates.

Clashes also broke out between ETA sympathisers and people mourning in the northern Basque town of Pamplona, where local authorities had suspended the day's famous running of the bulls in a mark of respect.

The incident was sparked when the separatist supporters *burnt red scarves fixed to the town hall's gates as a symbol of mourning*. Police intervened to calm the confrontation, then deployed throughout the town.

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It added: "This tragic event only reinforces the determination of France and Spain to act together to combat terrorism."

KINSHASA (R) — Rival factions battling in the Congo Republic capital Brazzaville have signed a ceasefire "which" should come into effect at midnight Monday, the United Nations envoy mediating in the crisis said Saturday.

"I have been told by both sides that they have signed the document," U.N. envoy Mohammed Sahnoun told Reuters by telephone from Gabon. "I am always very sceptical but I think this will lead to a serious outcome."

Forces supporting President Pascal Lissouba and the militia of former military ruler Denis Sassou Nguesso have battled in Brazzaville for more than month. Hundreds of people have died.

A ceasefire has been held up by Mr. Lissouba's refusal to sign it and Mr. Sassou's insistence that the president, not the prime minister, should endorse it.

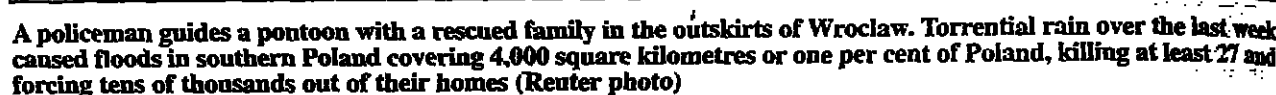
Mr. Sahnoun, a veteran Algerian diplomat, was in Brazzaville Thursday for talks with the chief rivals. He later said Mr. Lissouba had agreed to put his own signature to the agreement.

Mr. Sassou's spokesman Francois Iboovi confirmed it had been signed.

"The ceasefire has been signed. But in the meantime if we are attacked we will of course respond," Mr. Iboovi said. "If the ceasefire holds it is planned that it will be followed by

Both Mr. Lissouba and Mr. Sassou plan to stand in the elections, now certain to be postponed. Another warlord also running, Brazzaville Mayor Bernard Kolelas, has kept his militia out of the current fighting and heads a national mediation committee.

Gabon's President Omar Bongo, a son-in-law of Mr. Sassou and friend of Mr. Lissouba, has been trying to rally the rivals around a July 14 ceasefire.



WARSAW (R) — Poles fought to save the historic centre of the city of Wrocław as raging river floodwaters drove tens of thousands more people from their homes in Poland and the neighbouring Czech Republic.

Volunteers built sandbag walls round Wrocław's inner city Saturday as water poured over outer defences and rose in suburban streets, sending residents fleeing to upper floors to await rescue.

Priceless books and archives in the university library were being moved to safety in the city centre, which has a number of historic buildings.

Polish News Agency (PAP) reported provincial Governor Bogdan Zdrojewski saying he plans to blast a gap in flood walls south of Wrocław, a city of 650,000 people, to allow water to flood into the countryside and save the centre.

But it said he refused to tell reporters where or when this would happen. On Friday, anguished villagers in another location drove engineers away and dug out explosives from barriers to prevent their homes and farms being sacrificed.

The flood water raged north along the Odra River from flooded southern Poland to threaten Wrocław with flooding that has hit some 50 Polish towns and 300 villages.

The region's worst flooding this century has taken more than 50 lives in Poland and the Czech Republic and 3,500 square kilometres of Poland now lie under flood water.

The floods, caused by downpours earlier this week, have taken at least 26 lives in Poland, police said.

Thousands have been evacuated from scores of towns and hundreds of villages, leaving deserted, flooded streets.

Surging floodwaters drove thousands more villagers in the eastern Czech Republic from their homes Saturday as officials put the confirmed death toll there at 26.

Some 10,000 people were evacuated from nine villages in the Uherske Hradiste region, close to the Slovak border.

About 600 patients, including mothers with newborn babies, were moved from the Uherske Hradiste hospital in an operation involving 1,000 rescue workers, local Flood Committee spokesman Jaroslav Hrabec said.

The Flood Commission said 26 people had lost their lives

governor, told Reuters: "The situation is getting worse."

"We are waiting for the crisis to break one way or the other during the night...We are optimistic — the way Wrocław people mobilised themselves is most impressive," he said.

Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz has called the flooding the region's worst natural disaster in centuries.

Reuter photographer Pawel Kopczynski said teams of emergency services and volunteers were frantically laying sandbags to protect the low-lying island where some of Wrocław's most valuable old buildings stand.

By evening Mr. Kopczynski reported similar scenes in some inner city streets of Wrocław, which until borders changed in 1945 was the German city Breslau.

PAP quoted Interior Minister Leszek Miller as saying that a government reconstruction plan for the affected regions, now being drafted, would cost at least \$1 billion.

Mr. Miller said Poland would have to amend this year's budget, make provisions in the 1998 one and borrow from the World Bank or other international institutions.

Mr. Cimoszewicz had said Friday that changing the current budget, which would mean recalling parliament from recess, was not necessary for now as the government was able to raise \$200 million for relief and reconstruction.

Even as waters receded in southern areas and evacuees returned to devastation, dead animals and the risk of disease, the surge advanced mercilessly along the Odra and the Wisla.

Warsaw declared a flood alert although the Wisla tide was not expected to spill over when it hit the capital Monday.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Bonn had made 400,000 marks (\$224,000) available to help Poland and a convoy was setting out to take emergency equipment

CHITTAGONG (R) — Floods that have devastated large parts of Bangladesh killed some 60 people, and 19 others missing after their boat sank in a flooded river were also believed to have drowned.

"So far we have 60 confirmed deaths since the deluge began Tuesday. We are almost certain that 19 passengers missing in the Sangu River after their boat capsized Saturday are also dead," one Chittagong official said Sunday.

The new deaths included six in Chakoria in Cox's Bazar district and seven in the Satkania and Rauzan areas in Chittagong, officials and police said.

Officials said the victims died in landslides, house cave-ins and by drowning.

Unofficial sources Sunday put the death toll at nearly 75.

The floods, caused by heavy monsoon rain, left a quarter of a million people homeless, officials said.

At least half a million people were reported marooned in their half-submerged homes as floods triggered by torrential rain afflicted 19 out of the country's 64 administrative districts.

"Although rain ceased at many places Sunday, the overall flood situation might continue to aggravate due to onrush of water from upstream of flooded rivers and the hills in the Chittagong hill tracts," one meteorology official said.

Floodwater Saturday filled the entire town of Bandarban in the Chittagong hill tracts, forcing thousands of residents to flee into the surrounding hills.

Offices, business centres, police stations and army garrisons were evacuated, one Bandarban official said.

Nearly 100,000 people have been shifted to flood shelters in 19 affected districts, and many more moved to higher ground on their own.

Soldiers have joined relief and rescue operations after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Saturday asked them to reinforce efforts by the civil administration.

Helicopters were ferrying food and other supplies to areas where they can find a dry ground to land, one disaster management official said Sunday.

Mrs. Hasina left for Germany Saturday night to attend a UNESCO-sponsored conference in Hamburg on adult education. From there she was due to go to the United States to be with her daughter, who is expecting to give birth soon.

her aides said.

Road links between Chittagong and neighbouring districts, including Cox's Bazar and Bandarban, remained impassable as floodwater washed away several small bridges and partly inundated highways.

Train communications were disrupted because tracks were flooded or under threat. Handling of cargo at the Chittagong port also was hampered, port officials said.

The flooding has also disrupted communications with northeastern districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj and Habiganj.

At least 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares) of cropland, including tea districts, have been inundated, agriculture officials said, but they were unable to provide loss estimates immediately.

WASHINGTON (R)—FBI investigators believe that most of \$2 million China allegedly spent or budgeted to increase its political influence in the United States went toward legal activities, a news magazine reported Saturday.

The FBI also had no evidence linking the Chinese government to money illegally funnelled to presidential campaigns in the 1996 election, according to U.S. News and World Report.

A Senate probe into political fund-raising scandals opened this week with an allegation by its Republican chairman that China planned to buy its way into American politics.

Senator Fred Thompson of Tennessee began the long-awaited televised hearings by stating that Beijing's Communist leaders have a plan to build political influence in the United States, a charge China has denied.

At a news conference later, Sen. Thompson said he had seen evidence gathered by the FBI of China's continuing efforts to influence U.S. officials, but declined to make details public.

In an interview with the Washington Post published Sunday, Sen. Thompson said his decision to make the statement about Chinese political influence-buying came after aides spent hundreds of hours reviewing sensitive information on the matter.

The newspaper also said his remarks had been cleared in advance by the FBI, the CIA and the National Security Agency.

Sen. Thompson told the Post the information had been made available to all members of his committee but that only some had examined it.

"There is no dispute about the facts among anyone who looks at the documents," he said.

U.S. News said it had learned that the FBI believed most of the Chinese money was used for legal purposes such as lobbying and bringing senators to Beijing on expensive visits. The agency had no immediate comment on the report.

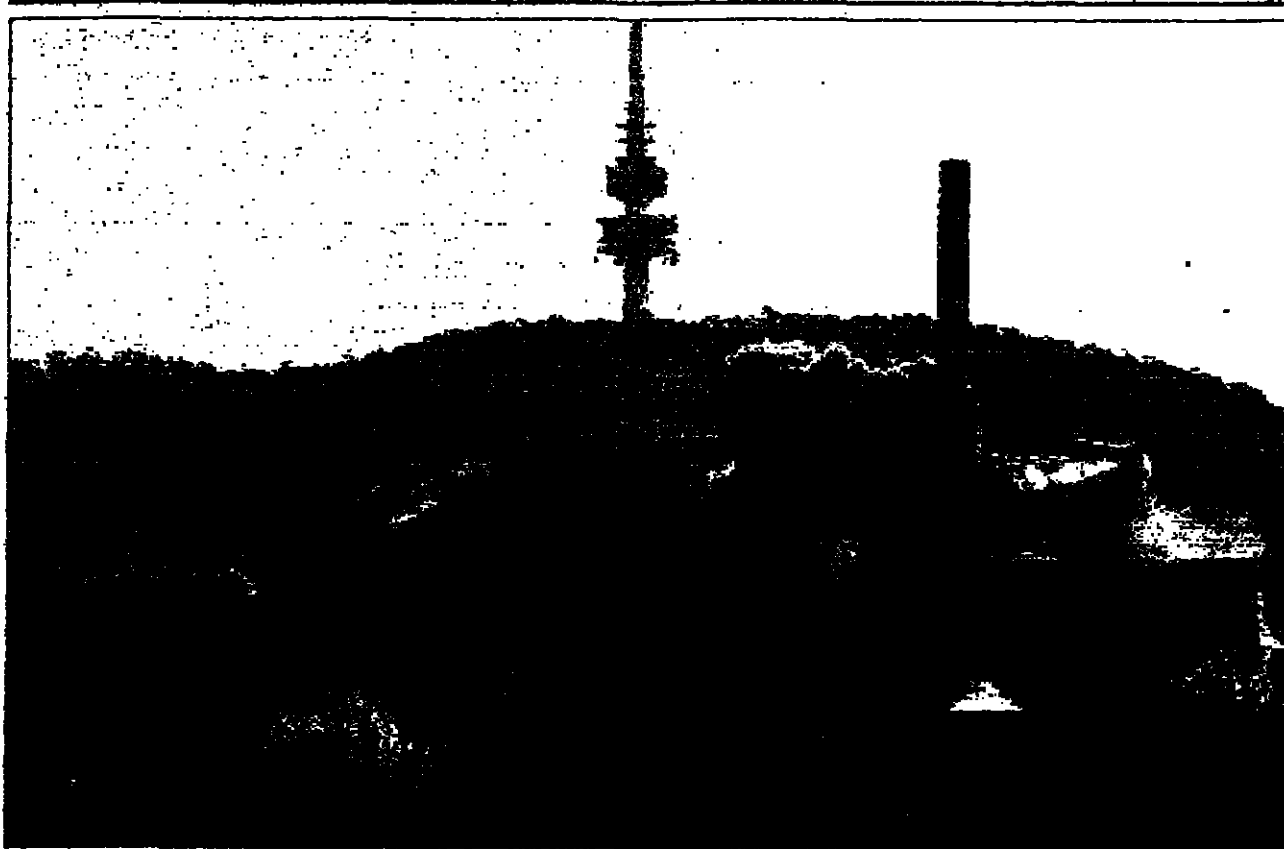
According to one unidentified senior FBI official quoted by the magazine, the Chinese plan added only \$200,000 to its existing activities in the United States and, of that, less than half went to campaign donations.

Representative Dan Burton, who heads a House panel planning its own hearings on campaign financing, asserted Sunday that "I don't want to go into details about what we have, but I will say that I don't think that Senator Thompson was in error. I think he's probably accurate," the Indiana Republican said Saturday on the CNN programme "Evans and Novak."

Asked if his committee would be able to show that Chinese money did corrupt U.S. political processes, Rep. Burton replied: "I think that we'll be able to give some evidence that that may have happened."

The House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight has been beset with problems ranging from complaints of partisanship to senior staff resignations, but Rep. Burton said he expected its campaign fund-raising probe to begin in

[illegible]



A blast implodes the old Canberra Hospital Sunday, as it is demolished for the construction of a new national museum in the nation's capital. A 12-year-old girl was killed when debris from the blast spewed 400 metres across a lake killing her and injuring several others (Reuter photo).

Australian girl killed as demolition goes wrong

CANBERRA (R) — A 12-year-old Australian girl died and several people were injured in Canberra Sunday when a hospital demolition went wrong, spewing debris over thousands of spectators who turned out for what was billed a family event.

Australian Federal Police Acting Sergeant Darryl Webb told Reuters the girl died during the implosion of the capital's old hospital, on the shore of a lake in the city's parliamentary tourist zone. Police originally said the victim was 23.

"I was standing next to a boy, he was about 14 or 15 ... and we saw something skip across the water and then it hit him," a woman witness told local radio.

"We heard him scream out

as it hit him," said the woman, who did not give her name.

"Another woman came out of the crowd with blood on her hands and she said that she was behind a girl who was killed by a rock."

Police and government investigations have begun and a counselling service has been set up for the tens of thousands of tourists and locals who had flocked to the lakeshore and surrounding parks and bridges to watch.

Regional government chief Kate Carnell, who watched the implosion with her family from the top of a nearby hotel, said she was horrified by the tragedy.

"It appears that something has gone wrong and we need, I need, to find out

what that was," she told reporters.

"There was no indication whatsoever that this was even a possibility."

The event had been widely advertised to draw family crowds and a fireworks display was included in the entertainment.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer's media spokesman, Innes Willox, was standing in the worst hit area with his family.

"There was all this shrapnel raining across the lake in front of us," he said.

Mrs. Carnell said the company in charge of the demolition, City And Country, had said debris would be confined to within 50 metres and a 200 metre exclusion zone had been set for added safety.

But the dead girl was standing in a park about 400 metres across the lake from the hospital and witnesses said debris had been blasted more than 500 metres from the blast site, about one kilometre from Parliament House.

The dead girl has not been identified and police would not say where she was from, but Sgt. Webb said police had confirmed her age after speaking to her shocked parents, after several conflicting reports immediately after the accident.

At least nine people were injured, including a 14-year-old boy with serious chest wounds.

The hospital was closed in 1991 and was being demolished to clear the site for a new national museum.

Afghan opposition reportedly execute 10 Taliban prisoners

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan opposition forces have executed 10 Taliban prisoners held in northern Afghanistan, the private Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported Sunday quoting a Taliban spokesman Wakil Ahmad.

The troops grabbed a group of 11 Taliban prisoners from the central jail in Mazar-i-Sharif on July 3, drove them to nearby Dasht-e Arseen desert and shot them, AIP said.

Ten died but one, Mulla Shehzada, survived with injuries and managed to escape back to the Taliban, Mr. Ahmad said.

Independent confirmation of the report was not immediately available.

Mr. Shahzada who received four bullets told the Taliban that "such massacre of the Taliban prisoners was routine" in northern Afghanistan, AIP said.

He said the surviving Taliban fighter was receiving treatment at a Taliban base but did not identify the place.

The Taliban have lodged a complaint with the International Red Cross against "this inhuman act," Mr. Ahmad said. He called for safety and security of the Islamic militiamen held by the opposition alliance and proper medical care of the wounded Taliban, AIP said.

Mazar-i-Sharif is the headquarters of General Abdul Malik who briefly defected to the Taliban in May leading to the ouster of a powerful warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam. However the general switched sides and the Taliban were driven out after heavy fighting in the northern capital city.

The Taliban suffered heavy losses and hundreds of their fighters were taken prisoner by the rival alliance, comprising forces of Gen. Malik, former President Burhanuddin Rabbani and a Shiite faction, Hezb-i-Wahdat.

The prisoners include some top Taliban officials including Foreign Minister Mulla Mohammad Ghous.

The agency did not say if any important Taliban prisoner was among the 10 executed this month.

Meanwhile, a Red Cross spokesman told AFP Sunday Ismael Khan, a former governor of western Herat province and close ally of the ousted Afghan government, was alive and well in Taliban custody.

But the Red Cross protested that unrestricted access to all Afghan detainees has still not been granted.

"I confirm that access to Ismael Khan and other security prisoners held in Kandahar was granted by the Taliban

authorities," said Thomas Gurner, acting head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Senior opposition commander Ismael Khan along with 700 of his men were handed over to the militant Muslims last May by a defecting northern Uzbek commander and transferred to southern jails in the Taliban's Kandahar headquarters.

Mr. Gurner said Ismael Khan had been seen in private by the ICRC, officially registered, and had written a Red Cross message to be delivered to his family, all in accordance with normal visiting procedures.

Ismael Khan, a noted resistance commander during the 1979-89 Russian occupation, was a trusted lieutenant of ex-President Burhanuddin Rabbani who was kicked out of Kabul in September 1996 by the Taliban militia.

As far as the ICRC was concerned, all prisoners including Ismael Khan, should be treated the same, but Mr. Gurner protested that the Red Cross was still denied access to many prisoners held in the north of Afghanistan.

"We are still very concerned that access to the majority of prisoners held by the northern forces in Maimana, Sheberghan and Mazar-i-Sharif has still not been granted," Mr. Gurner stated grimly.

He was referring to Taliban prisoners held in three northern capitals by General Abdul Malik, the same Uzbek commander — who after his May mutiny and defection to the Islamic movement — had arrested Ismael Khan.

Gen. Malik's flirtation with the Taliban proved short-lived. After five days the Uzbek warlord, in a dispute over power-sharing, rejoined the opposition forces and drove the Muslim militia out of the north.

In the process an estimated 2,000 Taliban were captured by Gen. Malik and his Shiite allies.

"We have only been allowed to visit and treat more than 200 wounded Taliban prisoners held in the north," the ICRC acting chief said.

Mr. Ghaus was reported among the many wounded in a Taliban jet-strike against the Fariab provincial capital Maimana last week. Gen. Malik said errant Taliban-dropped bombs hit their own men held in Maimana's central jail.

"By not allowing access to non-wounded prisoners, the northerners are not respecting ICRC's standard visiting procedures," Mr. Gurner said.

Political killings still dog new S. Africa

DURBAN (R) — Political violence has dropped sharply in South Africa since the death of apartheid more than three years ago, but the country's people still find reasons to kill under President Nelson Mandela.

According to the non-governmental Human Rights Committee (HRC), 1,071 people were killed in political violence in the year ending last month.

Slightly more than half of the deaths occurred in KwaZulu-Natal province, long notorious for bloody political feuding between Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the Inkatha Freedom Party, but many of the killings took place in other provinces and for different reasons.

The HRC said violence in areas like the Gauteng industrial heartland, Eastern Cape and Northern Province since 1994 was related to frustration at slow delivery of housing and other basic services by Mr. Mandela's government.

Northern Province has also experienced violent protests over the demarcation of provincial boundaries and in Eastern Cape ANC-linked political factions have turned on each other.

KwaZulu-Natal political analyst Alexander Johnston said the ease with which South Africans resorted to violence was reflected in crime statistics. "Political violence is to a large extent the product of a general climate of lawlessness," said Professor Johnston, from the University of Natal Political Science Department.

"Until a real impression is made on violent crime, which in terms of the number of people killed is a far greater problem, it is unlikely political violence will be eradicated," he said.

HRC researcher Makubese Sekhonyane said that because political violence had diminished so markedly since the 1994 all-race election, it went almost unnoticed at its current levels.

"We previously had total chaos and what goes on now seems like hardly anything," he said.

"People have come from a far worse situation and the killings have now dropped to a level where they are no longer (as) alarming."

Thai police seek kitchen workers over hotel inferno

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai police said Sunday they wanted to question two kitchen workers who went missing after the seaside resort inferno in Pattaya left at least 90 dead and 64 injured.

"We want to know who caused the fire," said General Kongdej Chooni, commander of the Chonburi province police, as rescue searches resumed their grisly search for bodies at the Royal Jomtien Resort Hotel.

The management and partners in the hotel could also face prosecution, pending the completion of their investigation into the blaze that ravaged the 16-storey building Friday, he said.

While at least three people were still believed missing, including one Hungarian tourist, no further corpses were found in the first four hours of searching Sunday, police and witnesses said.

An official of the Tourism Authority of Thailand said that relatives of some of the 10 foreigners known to have died had arrived in Pattaya to repatriate their remains.

Two of three Koreans who

were killed in the blaze were due to be cremated Sunday and the ashes to be taken back home by their families later in the day, said Setaphan Buddhani, Tourism Authority director in Pattaya.

Speaking from the scene, he said 400 rescue workers were still sifting through the charred shell of the hotel, as Thai forensic experts continued their investigation into what triggered the tragedy.

According to Gen. Kongdej, a hotel waiter told police that the two kitchen workers were in the ground-floor kitchen when leaking gas sparked the fire, which rapidly swept through the whole building.

"The police think that it's their (the workers') distinct fault," Gen. Kongdej said, adding they were known not to be among the 90 dead.

The waiter, who is in police custody, said that he had smelt gas in the kitchen, and traced the odour to a leaking canister, which he tried to close.

He told police that one of the kitchen workers came over to help, but removed the valve on the canister

instead of closing it. A spark then ignited one of the kitchen stoves and the workers fled the scene.

Gen. Kongdej also noted that the owners of the hotel could not refuse responsibility for the disaster, as it was clear they had been negligent in maintaining fire prevention systems in the hotel.

Fire alarms and sprinklers failed to work and many of the victims perished because fire doors had been locked, reportedly to stop guests from leaving without paying.

Gen. Kongdej said most of the bodies had been trapped in narrow stairwells and fire escapes as they frantically sought a way out of the hotel.

Rescue workers Sunday were focussing their efforts on gaining access to a convention room where hotel guests from the Thai state electricity board had been meeting when the blaze broke out, police said.

The governor of Chonburi province, where Pattaya is located, would Monday formally present cash donations to relatives of the dead contributed by Thai charities, Mr. Setaphan said.

More people support Charles as king but not Camilla as queen

LONDON (R) — More than half of Britons think Prince Charles would make a good king but seven out of 10 of his future subjects do not want his mistress Camilla Parker Bowles to become his queen, a survey showed Sunday.

Her divorced husband, however, said Mrs. Parker Bowles has no desire to be queen.

"Camilla is adamant she has no desire to become queen and will refuse it at any cost," Andrew Parker Bowles was quoted as telling the Mail On Sunday

newspaper. "She knows that might prevent her marrying the prince but she is willing to forego a wedding to avoid having to take the title and the throne."

The Mori survey showed the country is getting increasingly used to the affair between heir to the throne Charles, divorced from the glamorous Princess Diana in 1996, and Mrs. Parker Bowles, 49, the Mail On Sunday said.

Fifty-nine per cent think they should stay together and only 18 per cent want

them to split up. The newspaper said 43 per cent said they should marry but 71 per cent, down from 79 per cent this time last year, said Mrs. Parker Bowles should never become queen.

Prince Charles has said he would never remarry after the break-up of his 15-year marriage to Princess Diana but media reports have suggested he might be reconsidering this.

Fifty-three per cent said they believed Prince Charles would make a good king, a nine-point increase from last year.

Baltics can join NATO, Albright tells Russia

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told Russians firmly Sunday that the Baltic states were eligible to join NATO despite Moscow's fierce opposition to former Soviet republics gaining entry.

"We have said all along that NATO is open to all democratic market systems in Europe," Ms. Albright said when asked in a Russian television interview whether Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia could become NATO members.

"All those kind of countries are eligible. It doesn't matter where a country is on the map, they are eligible for membership in NATO," she said.

Ms. Albright, who arrived in Russia's second city Saturday as part of a swing through Eastern Europe to explain NATO's expansion policy, was due to meet Baltic foreign ministers later Sunday in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

She was expected to assure them that they were not excluded from membership in the alliance even though a NATO summit in Madrid last week neither invited them to join nor identified them as candidates for the next round of enlargement.

Albright to seek Jewish roots

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who makes an official visit to the land of her birth Sunday, plans to look for her Jewish family roots in Prague.

Ms. Albright, visiting the Czech Republic for the first time since becoming secretary of state, is to go Sunday evening to Prague's Jewish cemetery and to look for the graves of her grandparents, who died in the Holocaust, on the heels of a dialogue of U.S. officials travelling with her.

Revelations about Ms. Albright's origins caused a stir in February when the Washington Post, searching her background, found she appeared to be of Jewish ancestry and that three of her grandparents had died in the Holocaust.

"This has been an intensely personal issue for her. She has tried not to let it interfere with her work but now she has the opportunity to learn more about it," the U.S. official said.

Ms. Albright, who speaks Czech, was born Marie Jana Koubek in Prague in 1929. Her father, Josef Koubek, was a Czechoslovak diplomat.

The names of her paternal grandparents, Arnost Koubek and his wife, Olga, are listed on the memorial wall of the Prague Synagogue dedicated to Czechoslovak Jews who died in the Holocaust during World War II.

The summit invited Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to begin accession talks to become the first new NATO members since the cold war ended at the close of the 1980s.

The Baltic states were incorporated into the Soviet Union during World War II and became independent in 1991. Still fearful for their freedom, the three countries are anxious to gain the protection of NATO membership as soon as possible.

But Russia, which has grudgingly accepted the expansion of the alliance into Central Europe, has said it may tear up a recently signed charter of cooperation with NATO if former Soviet republics are admitted to the alliance.

Despite the differences over NATO, Ms. Albright said she had a "wonderful"

meeting Saturday evening with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov on arms control and other issues.

U.S. officials said a major theme of the talks was how to adapt the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty to the changed political situation. Ms. Albright held another meeting with Mr. Primakov directly after the television interview.

Ms. Albright said U.S.-Russian relations were "on a very strong basis."

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin were "working very hard to show that there is a new Russia that works with the United States together for peace and security," she said.

Asked about economic relations, she called on Russia to ensure that its commercial and tax laws were favourable to American investment.

Ms. Albright, who was born in the former Czechoslovakia and speaks several languages, made a brief opening statement in Russian noting that Saturday's meeting was her eighth with Mr. Primakov. She also corrected an omission by her interpreter at one point in the interview.

Police fire plastic bullets in N. Irish riots

BELFAST (R) — Police fired plastic bullets to disperse rioters in two Northern Ireland cities overnight after thousands of Protestants had held tense but peaceful parades across the British province.

Violence erupted in the centre of the largely Catholic city of Londonderry Saturday when Irish Nationalist youths attacked police with stones, petrol bombs and catapults firing ball-bearings, security sources said.

"A large number of commercial premises have been damaged. A number of police were injured but none of them seriously," a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary Police said Sunday.

In North Belfast, where rival communities live in separate, check-by-check neighbourhoods, police had to deal with clashes between Protestants and Catholics. Several petrol bombs were thrown.

The trouble flared after buses, thought to be carrying supporters of the Orange Order, which had held parades, were stoned. One Orangeman was injured in Portadown and petrol bombers attacked an Orange Order hall at Warrenpoint.

Protestant Orangemen loyal to Britain, who staged the processions Saturday, agreed to avoid flashpoint Catholic areas.

The leader of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, Northern Ireland's biggest political group, accused Irish Nationalists of responding to the Orange Order's gesture of cancelling parades through Catholic areas with gunfire.

"People were asking, will there be a response from Nationalists?" David Trimble said at an Orange parade outside Belfast Saturday. "Yes, there was a response, the response was gunfire."

He added: "We hope it is

becoming clearer and clearer what the true nature of Sinn Fein/IRA is. The violence that came last night was not a surprise."

He was referring to Irish Republican Army guerrillas and their political arm, Sinn Fein, who want an end to British rule in Northern Ireland.

Two teenagers and five members of a joint police and British army patrol were injured in attacks by Republican gunmen in Belfast late Friday night.

The IRA admitted shooting the soldiers and police officers and also said it was responsible for a bomb attack on security forces.

Spokesmen for groups close to pro-British gunmen said they feared the wounding of the two teenagers, aged 14 and 18, would provoke retaliation in an already very tense atmosphere.

In a statement, Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams urged an end to sectarian attacks. "I appeal for calm,"

he said. "There should be no triumphalism, no sectarian abuse of our neighbours."

Saturday's marches commemorated a 1690 Protestant victory over Catholic forces at the Battle of the Boyne which ensured that a Protestant ascended to the British throne.

The Orangemen stopped their parades going through four volatile zones after the minority Catholics threatened mass demonstrations against what they regard as sectarian intimidation.

U.S. President Bill Clinton praised the Orange Order for rerouting its parades and condemned as "inexcusable" the attacks on security forces and the two youths.

"I welcome the decision of the Orange Order and its local lodges to voluntarily call off and reroute the contentious parades scheduled for this weekend," Mr. Clinton said in a statement as he ended an eight-day trip to Europe.

Arab-Euromediterranean cooperation — culture-bound vs culture-free understanding

By Dr. Hala Sabri

THE FACT that the word "culture" is used in two quite different senses often leads to confusion. In this article, "culture" does not mean "civilisation", that is knowledge of the arts, such as music and sculpture, nor does it refer to social graces, both combined in the image, in Europe at least, of the culturally refined person. It does mean, as common amongst anthropologists, a collective phenomenon of acquired patterns of thinking, feeling and acting, shared by people who live or lived within the same social environment and thus, distinguishes the members of one group from another.

Everywhere, nowadays, scholars and politicians seek to explain economic, political and diplomatic in terms of "culture

areas" rather than policies or ideas, economic interests or personalities.

On the whole, culturally, we are what we are because of the histories of our societies, including their economies and religions. Few of us can, but only slowly, change what we are, and few would want to. Yet, a culture of any society cannot be pictured by itself, but only by comparison with other societies; and it is only in "culture shock" that we become aware of culture when we encounter another one. Therefore, it is all too easy to attribute too much to societal culture.

Yet, to learn to recognise culture, and its features in practice is a powerful aid to mutual understanding, and a powerful means of explanation.

Undoubtedly, there are many areas in which mutual understanding

amongst the Mediterranean countries is required. One of these is in projects where the various partners will work together in the construction of a Mediterranean cultural area. Arguably, though, for these projects to be successful, a better understanding of the driving forces that shape the way south and north Mediterranean countries manage their businesses and organisations is required.

I believe that consideration of this issue will be relevant to foster better mutual understanding and the future trends of the business environment in the North and South Mediterranean countries.

Obviously, Arab and European societies have distinct cultures. When reference is made to the Arabs, usually they are referred to as one nation — or one integrated soci-

ety — which shares some main characteristics: environment, people, language, religion, social structure and culture, but lacks a unified political system. On the other hand, when reference is made to the Europeans, it is argued that Europe, as one distinct culture, does not exist. Some even find it misleading that Europeans look more or less alike, but this does not mean they are culturally alike.

When comparing management and organisations in European and Arab Mediterranean countries, I would like to emphasise that the aim is not to discuss how Arab and European management styles differ. Rather, the aim is to highlight some shared characteristics in the cultures of these different societies that outstanding research has found to be manifest-

ed in the way their organisations are managed and organised. A fundamental question is therefore: How far and in what respect do Mediterranean countries play a part, together with other influences, in shaping the way their organisations are run? The answer to this question could be searched in the most debated issues, nowadays, in the study of international management, that is a "culture-free" thesis as against a "culture-bound" thesis.

In general terms, the "culture-free" thesis suggests that, in all countries, there are stable relationships between context and structure of organisations. Size and dependence are key elements in the explanation of the broad features of organisations worldwide. Furthermore, the thesis maintains that all what we are seeing in worldwide development of non-cultural factors, such as industrialisation, technology, large-scale operations and growing interdependencies of international multi-organisational systems, means that, in due course, there will be a common global "management culture."

On the other hand, the "culture-bound" thesis suggests that there are still considerable differences between countries. Even though the institutional contexts and management structures of two organisations might be the same, if they are in different societies with

different cultures, the people will behave differently. This is because, the thesis argues, people are culture bound and they react to their organisational problems according to their ideas about what an organisation should be like and how it should be run.

To understand the differences and similarities between how organisations are run in different cultures, the thesis highlights two main factors (amongst five main factors of national culture): the first is called "power distance", which means the extent to which less powerful members of institutions and organisations within a country expect and accept that power is distributed unequally (in other words, how far the culture encourages superiors to exert power); the second is called "uncertainty avoidance" which means the extent to which functions should be structured in laws, rules and procedures, to limit uncertainty.

The theory showed results of the remarkable work of the Dutch scholar, Geert Hofstede, who revealed that on these two factors, differences existed between the north European countries (such as Britain, Ireland, Germany, Sweden, Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, Belgium, Austria, Norway and Denmark) and south European countries (such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Yugoslavia, Greece and

Turkey). Whereas all north European countries (except for Belgium) stand low on the way authority is handled (i.e., decentralisation is popular and hierarchy in organisations means an inequality of roles, established for convenience), all south European countries stand high on the same factor (i.e., centralisation of authority is popular and hierarchy reflects the existential inequality between ups and lower-downs).

On the uncertainty avoidance factor, while all countries of the first group (except for Germany, Finland, Austria and Switzerland) also stand low (i.e., there should not be more rules than is strictly necessary), all countries of the second group stand high (i.e., there is an emotional need for rules, even if these will never work).

Ironically, when Arab and south European (Mediterranean) countries were compared on the same factors, it was found that they all stand high on power distance and uncertainty avoidance. Apart from contextual effects, both Arab and south European cultures encourage high centralisation of authority and high reliance on rules and procedures as means to operate their businesses.

In terms of both arguments, the culture free and culture specific, the message seems clear: to overcome all prejudices and to

attain deeper mutual knowledge and fruitful cooperation, all concerned parties on the two shores of the Mediterranean are called to acquire real knowledge through a deep consideration of their similarities as well as their dissimilarities.

The culture-free argument rests on the impact of macro aspects of industrialisation, technological development and effective operations. These factors push towards the same work to be done. The easy communication, travel and trade encourage the cross-cultural learning which can pressure towards better mutual understanding. The alternative case is that the culture-specific argument sets limits to this understanding. But under certain conditions, this understanding of how to jointly run businesses would be much easier if different cultures possessed, to a certain extent, similar characteristics.

Let us all hope that it will not be too long before a convergence in management and organisations of the Mediterranean countries have been identified.

The writer is executive director of the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum. She contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Medpartenariat conference in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

not gain any advantage unless we market products with strong potential."

Representatives of over 400 companies from Jordan, the European Union (EU), Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestine and Israel, held meetings yesterday in a bid to establish joint ventures and create a suitable environment for growth of small- and medium-size enterprises.

Nasso Christoyannopoulos, head of the division at the European Commission told the Jordan Times that the "ultimate goal of the gathering" is to "establish solid contracts and bring people together to cooperate in the future."

The European official conceded that the priority of some European companies is to sell their products in Jordan, but expressed his optimism that the meeting will result in the signing of joint ventures by 30 to 40 per cent of the participating companies.

"Representatives from European companies would never come to Jordan if they do not believe that the meetings will be useful," said Mr. Christoyannopoulos.

He lauded Jordan's efforts in upgrading its economy and said the "investment difficulties experienced in the past do not exist any more."

Mr. Christoyannopoulos said Jordan is also doing its utmost in achieving peace in the Middle East

adding that the Kingdom has had good relations with the EU since both countries signed the protocol of cooperation in 1978.

In a press conference, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Halaqa hoped that the Medpartenariat will provide the country with export opportunities to EU markets, facilitate technology transfer and establish joint ventures between Jordanian and European companies.

"The number of the companies participating is a good indication of the interest in this event," said Dr. Halaqa.

He ruled out that the political situation in the region was the major cause behind the limited participation from Arab countries.

"Financial and technical reasons were behind this, but if the political situation had been better, there would have been more participation from Arab countries," he said.

Also on Sunday, Reem Badran, acting director general at the Investment Promotion Corporation gave a seminar highlighting the investment climate in the Kingdom and the new set of legislation the government introduced to facilitate the dealings of businessmen wishing to invest in Jordan.

Ms. Badran said the government has taken a number of measures aimed at jump-starting the economy including full liberalisation

of foreign exchange dealings, abolishing the 50 per cent non-Jordanian equity ownership in several sectors.

Jordanian export companies are now exempt from income tax and the private sector is allowed to own and run industrial estates and free zones, she said.

Ms. Badran said that the Kingdom initiated a partnership agreement with the EU and is in the process of joining the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Jordan's trade relations with various international markets are facilitated by the Generalised System of Preference (GSP), and the country also enjoys a non-reciprocal preferential economic status with the EU, Ms. Badran said.

She said that the Medpartenariat in Jordan will be a fruitful step towards economic and business cooperation, adding that it also represents a unique opportunity to increase ventures between small and medium-size enterprises between Jordan and the EU.

Yusuf Mansur, head of the technical unit at the Ministry of Planning, addressed the partnership agreement Jordan initiated with the EU in April.

He said the agreement would encourage direct European investments in Jordan, facilitate the transfer of technology and provide the country's agricultural and industrial products with free access to EU markets.

Dr. Mansur added that the agreement calls for the gradual elimination of trade obstacles within a period of 12 years.

Mohammad Khatib, president of the Jordan-Europe Business Association (JEBBA), stressed the need to follow up on meetings after the conference is over.

"I don't underestimate the value of any partnership, it would remain meaningless without follow up," he said.

Mr. Khatib, whose association assists small- and medium-size enterprises in facilitating their transactions with minimum risks, said trade exchange between Jordanian and European SMEs is limited.

He said that JEBBA aims at encouraging exchange of investment between Jordan and the EU through the provision of business support services tailored to the needs of businessmen from both regions.

The gathering was organised by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCCO) in cooperation with the EU.

Participants expressed their satisfaction with the organisation of the conference.

"Surprisingly, the conference is well organised, better than some European events," said Kurt Altman a national councillor from the Austrian delegation.

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Nabulsi comments on indebtedness and lifting of currency controls, warns of any relaxation in deficit control

Former governor of Central Bank expects interest rates to drop gradually by two percentage points

By Samir Ghawi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Mohammad Said Nabulsi, the former governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, expects interest rates charged by licensed banks to decline by about two or three percentage points over the coming 12 months to as low as 11.5 per cent for prime clients.

He commended the Central Bank for signalling all licensed banks in the Kingdom that interest rates have peaked and that the time is ripe for a gradual reduction. Still, Dr. Nabulsi ruled out a return to the low interest rates of past years.

"It is a must that at no time we should have negative interest rates in Jordan," Dr. Nabulsi stressed, pointing out that the fixed dinar-dollar exchange rate makes it necessary to have interest rates on the dinar two or three points higher than the rate on the dollar.

Dr. Nabulsi explained that the policy of high interest rates is usually used as a monetary weapon in many countries to fight inflation, but that was not the case in Jordan where the objective was to raise foreign currency reserves and lure people into depositing in Jordanian dinars.

However, he acknowledged that the high interest rate policy served as a multi-purpose tool as it also prevented speculation against the dinar, curbed credit facilities and slowed imports and consumption.

On the negative side, the former Central Bank governor said, high interest rates have damaged economic activity and caused a recession that was being highlighted in adverse feedback. Now that the negative effects outweigh the positive benefits, "it is time to review the strategy," Dr.

Nabulsi added. To illustrate the sharp drop in credits extended by banks in 1996, he referred to Central Bank statistics showing credits growing by only JD214.6 million to JD3,920 million by the end of last year. This 5.8 per cent growth compares with a 14.1 per cent expansion in 1995.

Asked to evaluate the step taken by the Central Bank in abolishing all controls on foreign exchange and fully liberalising the currency market, Dr. Nabulsi was all praise for the move noting that such a step was a target that he pursued gradually while he was in office.

However, he himself would have been more cautious if he was to take the decision, especially bearing in mind the situations faced recently in Mexico and Thailand where a sudden outflow of funds rocked those countries.

Noting the importance of the element of continuity in terms of maintaining low balance of payments deficit and high foreign exchange reserves, the former governor would, in addition, still have opted for safeguards.

Despite the improvement in the foreign currency reserves and the success in reducing the deficit in the balance of payments from 17 per cent of the gross domestic product to five per cent and then to 3.5 per cent, Dr. Nabulsi saw possible risks coming from major entities and large investors who can move significant amounts of funds with speculative motives too fast.

He added, however, that he feels comfortable with this measure as long as it did not entail as yet abolishing the current legislation on currency controls (the Foreign Exchange

Law).

"I would urge the Central Bank to keep a high ceiling or monetary safeguards to monitor the situation," Dr. Nabulsi said.

He specifically mentioned the investors coming to play the stock market only for profit and then withdrawing quickly to other markets.

The third topic raised with Dr. Nabulsi was the level of indebtedness which he described as still high.

He said 30 to 40 per cent of gross domestic product is generally acceptable, but in the case of Jordan, indebtedness is now 95 per cent of the gross domestic product, down from more than 200 per cent in 1989-1990.

"What is comforting, though, is the rescheduling arrangements which lessen the servicing of the debt," Dr. Nabulsi indicated, pointing out that the amount in this regard has dropped from JD1.25 million annually in the past to JD450,000 at present.

Dr. Nabulsi stressed the importance of seizing any opportunity to reduce the indebtedness through, for example, debt swaps, purchasing debt at a discount or obtaining cheap credits to amortise expensive loans. He indicated that the Kingdom's indebtedness now stands at \$6.58 billion compared to \$8.5 billion in 1990.

The former governor who was behind the successful implementation of the financial reform that followed the 1988-1990 economic crisis until he retired in 1996 was glad that the internal debt of the government was sharply down.

Commenting on the people's repeated complaints of economic difficulties when official statistics point to improving conditions, Dr. Nabulsi indicated that such a contradictory situation shows an imbalance in the distribution of eco-



Mohammad Said Nabulsi

nomie benefits among the various sectors of the society.

Replying to the question of what is the key to maintain the economic well-being of the country and what is the red line that should not be crossed, Dr. Nabulsi answered: "The red line is the deficit in the budget."

He noted that the budget deficit has been gradually reduced but may not reach the target of three per cent of gross domestic product set for next year. He predicted the deficit to be now in excess of four per cent.

Dr. Nabulsi saw no problems arising until the end of 1998 when the IMF-guided structural adjustment programme draws to a close. He predicted that the strength of the economy will remain until the year 2000 even if some minor negative developments affect the country between 1998 and 2000.

"What will happen after the year 2000 depends very much on reigning the government spending and on politicians not derailing the successful course of the economy," emphasised the respected governor and financial expert who now runs his own consultancy office known as "The Trust House for Financial and Investment Services."

REUTERS

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	YEN	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7800	0.5900	1.4670	114.30	1.3731	1727.00	2.0043	6.0215
DE Mark	0.5618	1.0000	0.3312	0.8241	64.21	0.7710	969.68	1.2558	3.3822
GB Sterling	1.6990	3.0070	1.0000	2.4742	192.98	2.3274	2927.27	3.3973	10.2064
CH Franc	0.6817	1.2125	0.4018	1.0000	77.90	0.9384	1178.43	136.85	4.1018
JP Yen	0.0087	1.5559	0.5158	1.2823	1.0000	1.2003	15.10	175.20	5.2635
CA Dollar	0.7283	1.2768	0.4316	1.0662	1.20	1.0000	1243.27	1.4373	4.3027
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0301	0.3413	0.8489	1513.00	0.7946	1.0000	11.50	3.4847
NL Guilder	0.4989	0.8879	0.2942	0.7319	57.00	0.6849	861.43	1.0000	3.0035
FR Franc	0.1661	0.2955	0.0979	0.2436	16.36	0.2280	33.27	33.2700	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	KUW	AED	LEB	EGP	YER
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7500	0.3777	3.6400	0.3028	3.6725	1534.50	3.3875
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2973	0.5322	5.1412	0.4275	5.1871	2167.37	4.7848
GB Sterling	0.2866	0.1888	1.0000	0.0101	0.97	0.0807	0.98	409.15	0.9032
Bahrain Dinar	26.53	18.7788	98.4828	1.0000	96.55	8.0276	97.41	3988.88	89.3541
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0304	0.0304	1.0000	0.0831	1.01	421.57	0.9306
Kuwait Dinar	3.3043	2.3394	12.3926	0.1246	12.03	1.0000	12.13	5070.38	0.9306
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	0.0103	0.9912	0.0824	1.00	417.84	0.9224
Lebanese Dinar	0.65	0.4614	2.4441	0.0246	2.3721	0.1972	2.3833	1.0000	2.2076
Egyptian	0.2562	0.2090	1.1072	0.0111	1.0748	0.0893	1.0841	452.99	1.0000

Energy		
Oil	Last	Settle
Brent	16.40	16.57
WTI	16.34	16.18
Bonny	16.40	16.57
Dubai	16.65	16.80
UL Gas	178.00	178.00

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	YEN	YER	YER	YER
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4748	0.1573	0.3912	30.5027	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4848	0.1606	0.3973	31.1507	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
KW Dinar	3.3043	5.8582	1.9452	4.8496	378.972	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
BH Dinar	0.0377	0.1688	0.0569	0.1405	11.5000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
CY Pound	1.925	3.4265	1.1354	2.824	220.028	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000

Metal Prices		
Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	321.2	321.7
Silver (oz's)	4.36	4.38
Platinum (oz's)	398	399
AL (3 Months)	1582	1587
CU (3 Months)	2287	2292
Zinc (3 Months)	1489	1492
Lead (3 Months)	664	668
NI (3 Months)	6935	6950

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Cncy	Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year	4 Year	5 Year
USD	5.53	5.59	5.68	5.78	5.87	5.97	6.07	6.17	6.27
GBP	6.58	6.63	6.72	6.82	6.92	7.02	7.12	7.22	7.32
JPY	0.56	0.58	0.68	0.74	0.78	0.88	0.94	0.98	1.08
DEM	3.00	3.03	3.09	3.11	3.16	3.26	3.32	3.37	3.42
FRF	3.22	3.27	3.33	3.37	3.42	3.52	3.57	3.62	3.67
CHF	1.35	1.35	1.36	1.37	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.41	1.42
ITL	6.57	6.62	6.67	6.74	6.80	6.85	6.90	6.95	7.00

Main Equity Indices									
Source	Index	Value	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls	Pr Cls	Pr Cls	Pr Cls
New York	DOW JONES	7921.82	35.06	0.44	7955.29	7887.21	7884.76	7884.76	7884.76
New York	S&P 500	916.68	2.9	0.32	919.74	913.11	913.78	913.78	913.78
London	FT-SE 100	4798.5	31.7	0.66	4800.1	4765.5	4767.8	4767.8	4767.8
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	19875.49	120.71	0.81	19892.8	19642.9	19784.8	19784.8	19784.8
Paris	CAC 40	2941.59	12.5	0.43	2946.09	2928.38	2929.09	2929.09	2929.09
Frankfurt	DAX	4040.97	48.59	1.22	4050.41	4017.36	3992.38	3992.38	3992.38

Energy		
Commodity	Last	Settle
Coffee (c/lbs)	179.17	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1595	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	324	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	147.5	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	21.9	Spot
Tea (c/lbs)	128	Spot
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates		
Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.7080	0.7100
GB Sterling	1.1977	1.2037
DE Mark	0.3972	0.3992
CH Franc	0.4819	0.4843
FR Franc	0.1174	0.118
JP Yen	0.6185	0.6216
NL Guilder	0.3528	0.3546
IT Lira	0.4094	0.4114

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

- ACROSS
- Have being
 - Gay
 - Attire
 - avis
 - "house is his castle"
 - Hosiery shade
 - Prayer word
 - Martyred leader, Anwar
 - Solar or electrical
 - Pair
 - On — (climbed)
 - Compose for printing
 - Ovine confine
 - Loose rock
 - Pantomime player
 - du Diable
 - Shipboard prison
 - Speechified
 - UN body
 - Racer
 - Mill, letters
 - Pub potion
 - Type of chair
 - Worm-out
 - Fireplace part
 - Members of a jazz band
 - A long, long time
 - Haggard novel
 - Black Sea port
 - Old-womanish
 - Type of egg
 - Byway
 - Hall U
 - Neck part
 - Roofing material
 - Dutch
 - Russian inland lake
 - Monk's title

- DOWN
- Long time
 - Piquant
 - Goes astray
 - Trouble for a swimmer
 - Sandwich meat
 - Wrath
 - One behind the other
 - El — TX
 - "Camera"
 - Wireless — transmission
 - Make into law
 - First name in cosmetics
 - Flat-topped hill
 - It's raised in reproach
 - The nth degree
 - Actor Jannings of old
 - Embellished
 - Prepare for the final
 - Exhale with emotion
 - Singer Laine
 - Budget item
 - Put up
 - Salad item
 - Skil lift
 - Fashion magazine
 - in-the-wool
 - Scottish Gaelic
 - Only
 - Type of sausage
 - WWII battle site
 - Seder, for example
 - Antisocial one
 - Merge
 - Inn
 - Dispatched
 - Spoke
 - WWII battle site
 - Attention-getter
 - Mauna —
 - Corn unit
 - Fashionable resort

Puzzle solved:

BLIP	PATHS	DAVE
LIRE	ORION	ACES
DAMP	PINEAPPLES	
GRAPLES	POPOP	
ERALS	SPEE	
SPARER	SCI	ROPE
CRISP	THANT	NRA
RAM	ARRANGE	TAG
ATE	YEARS	SPADE
PEEP	DIP	STUPOR
ARAL	STER	
PUP	SCORPION	
PETER	PIPER	OGRE
STEN	LAIN	SOBS
TEST	ENTER	ERST

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BOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY, JULY 14, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Some progressive-minded close friends can give you today the support and fine advice you need to get a project underway, so you should not hesitate to ask for assistance. Later you can get together with your mate for an enjoyable evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you do something dramatic today to gain the attention of a superior, you can easily get the backing you need. Believe in yourself, and succeed, since this will be the way in which others will perceive you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Start making the arrangements today for a short trip which can have very profitable results, and be sure to count the cost well, thereby you won't be short of funds. Later this evening will be good to see knowledgeable people.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You will find it easy to get your ideas across to others today, especially where business or financial matters are concerned. Later this evening will be a good time to meet with close friends for recreational activities, you enjoy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Begin the week wisely by arranging a schedule of your career activities which you can stick to. A fellow associate will do you a valuable favour concerning any tasks which you are doing, so you should make many inquiries.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to modernise your daily routines today so you will be more efficient. This is the right time to reveal that new plan to your fellow associates for completion of any new projects which you are assigned.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on building up your strong points today, while eliminating your weak points, and you will build yourself a very successful days ahead. Later this evening will be a good time to go to a romantic location with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Set aside some time today to solve any long-standing difficulties at home before inviting any guests in. You should not allow anyone to get under your skin, thereby you can make your career activities quite successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A little humour can defuse a potentially explosive situation today in the business world, so you should keep alert. Put some enthusiasm into your daily career activities and you can gain recognition from a bigwig.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Before you try today to improve the condition of your home, obtain some advice from a person who is a qualified expert in such matters.

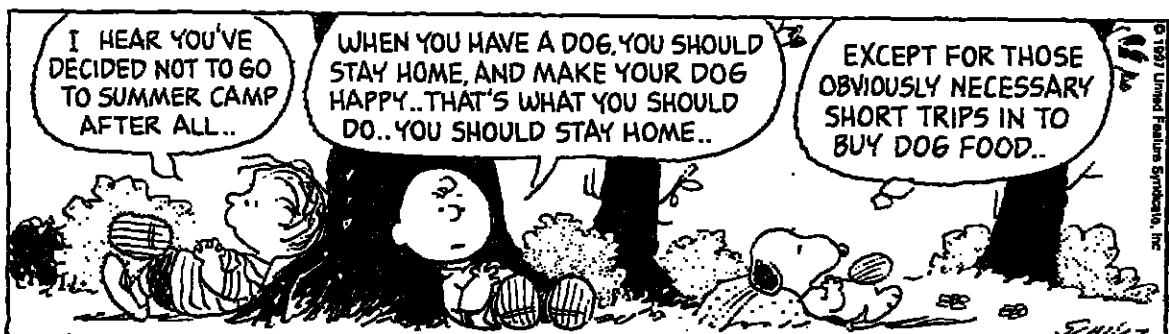
Aquarius: (January 21 to February 19) You don't have to go out of your way today to impress people, just be yourself and gain the recognition you desire. Go out on the town with your good friends later this evening and participate in recreational activities which are fun.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Stay at home with your mate later this evening, and enjoy some good old-fashioned conversation which can be quite enjoyable. Be loyal and kind to your good friends and don't do anything which could cause conflict.

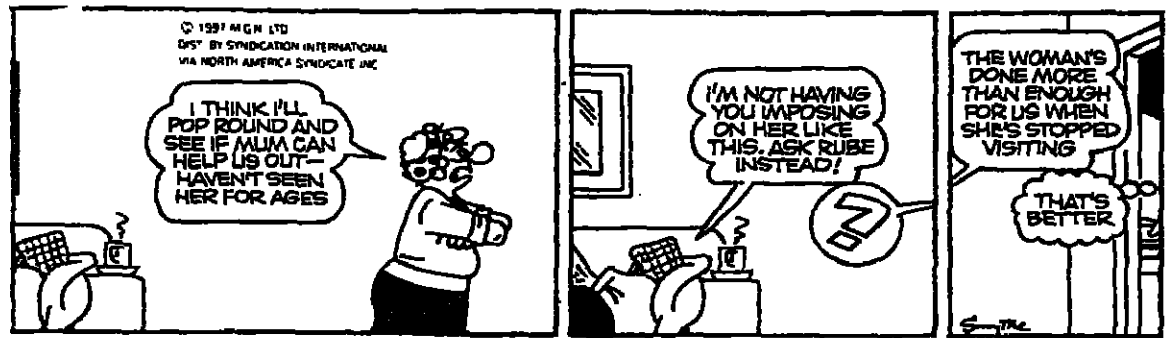
Birthingstone of July: Pearl

Ruby — Tiger's Eye

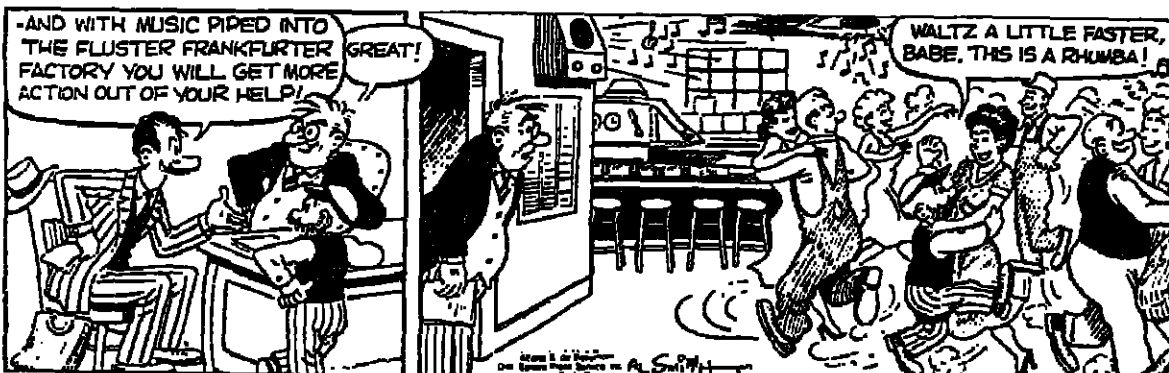
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



Kabariti most likely to be elected chairman of Jordan Kuwait Bank

By Mahmoud Masharqah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti is most likely to be elected board chairman of

the Jordan Kuwait Bank during the bank's general assembly meeting to be held tomorrow, banking sources in Amman predicted Sunday. The sources told Al Ra'i

and the Jordan Times that Mr. Kabariti has expressed willingness in principle to assume the post noting that the former premier has received a number of offers from Jordanian financial institutions and banks including the Philadelphia Bank and the Middle East Bank. Mr. Kabariti who has recently bought shares in the Jordan Kuwait Bank has made important contributions in attracting investors from Kuwait and other Arab countries to the bank to raise its capital to JD 20 million.

The sources noted that the outstanding issues that prevented the general assembly from holding its meetings so far have now been settled and it is expected that the set-up of the bank's new board will be satisfactory to all parties.

Jordan Kuwait Bank's sources said that Mr. Kabariti has accepted an offer by the major shareholders to become chairman of the bank's board of directors as they are determined to boost the bank's status among the financial institutions at the local and regional levels.

Israeli businessmen looking for Jordanian partners, export markets in Arab World

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Fifty-three Israeli companies Sunday began searching for Jordanian joint-venture partners and outlets to Middle East markets during the first full day of the Mediterranean. Members of the Israeli delegation — the largest at the event — expressed confidence in their ability to establish contacts in Jordan in spite of a prevailing crisis in the peace process at official levels.

"We know that there are those against the peace process," said Yossi Barnai, director of the Middle East and North African Business Information Centre — an institution dedicated to developing contacts between Israeli and Arab companies — "but when you meet businessmen here, it seems that they want to do business."

Mr. Barnai measured Jordanians' enthusiasm for establishing contacts against the fact that during the course of the day, members of the Israeli delegation had been approached by a Jordanian company to establish a joint-venture in Aqaba, and he indicated that at least one other deal had been concluded by the end of the day.

Daily Beat
A review of news from the Arabic press

Union Bank reports JD464,000 loss, rules out any plan for merger

** THE UNION Bank for Savings and Investment has been able to cover JD18.6 million of the JD20 million which is the minimum capital required by the Central Bank. Board Chairman Isam Salfiti told the general assembly. He indicated that the remaining JD1.4 million will be secured in the near future and ruled out any plan for a merger.

Mr. Salfiti pointed out that fixed assets have increased by 14 per cent due to relocation of the bank to the new permanent building and the requirements for new furniture and supplies of the general management and the main branch. The bank was able to sell a number of lands and buildings under development in addition to other real estate that became the property of the bank in settlement of unpaid debts.

According to the annual report, the bank was able to maintain the level of deposits at around JD145 million despite stiff competition in the market. Foreign currency accounted for 57 per cent of the total.

As to the profit and loss statement, the bank earned a total income of JD17.6 million but due to higher allocations for credit facilities and lower prices for stocks and shares in addition to higher administrative and general expenses, the net result was a net loss of JD464,000. The higher expenses were attributed to the start of operations at the bank's new headquarters.

The total value of the securities portfolio for investment amounted to JD7.1 million whereas the portfolio of securities for trading carried a total value of JD19.4 million. Total credit facilities amounted to a net JD58.6 million. (Al Ra'i + Al Dustour + Al Aswaj).

Accumulated loss of Arab Financial Investment Company reach JD3.9m

** THE ARAB Financial Investment Company posted a JD2.2 million loss last year. By adding the losses incurred in 1995, the accumulated loss reached JD3.9 million. Total assets as such dropped sharply as they declined from JD12.6 million at the end of 1995 to JD8.8 million at the end of 1996.

The annual report stated that the economic measures with all the positive indicators did not reflect positively on the trading at the Amman Financial Market which suffers for the third consecutive year from a slowdown that caused a drop of 40 per cent of the volume recorded in 1995.

The report mentioned the continued closure of the Palestinian markets to Jordanian products, the strict monetary policy of the Central Bank and the high interest rates as reasons for the retreat in performance (Al Ra'i).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARAFI											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 13/07/1997											
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE			
1 276,000	214,500	ARAB BANK	12.9	1.43	45	1820	563900	275.00	280.00	5.00	+
2 340	1,000	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	25	16990	34103	3.04	3.06	0.02	+
5,800	4,100	CAIRO ARAB BANK	11.9	2.61	1	1900	10350	5.89	5.75	-0.14	-
1,210	880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	60.4	0.00	15	75200	69903	93	92	-1	-
5,200	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	14.6	3.94	7	6374	24860	4.90	4.90	0.00	0
4,180	2,440	JOR. KUNATZ BANK	10.2	0.00	7	6872	19590	2.82	2.86	0.04	+
1,050	780	JOR. GULF BANK	4.8	8.75	15	11200	8971	82	80	-20	-
4,050	3,480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.5	3.14	6	1708	4963	3.81	3.82	0.01	+
1,800	1,110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	2	1030	1160	1.16	1.16	0.00	0
3,800	3,000	JOR. INV. FIN. BK.	20.4	0.00	5	391	1234	3.17	3.19	0.02	+
1,440	1,000	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	8	1500	1485	1.02	1.02	0.00	0
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 208.82 CHNG: +1.30 140 123165 680715											
2,350	1,600	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.6	12.35	1	1000	1620	1.63	1.62	-0.01	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.68 CHNG: -0.05 1 1000 1620											
1,820	1,490	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	7.8	6.17	16	6057	9854	1.63	1.62	-0.01	-
7,500	6,000	WCL. OWNERS FED.	7.9	0.00	1	150	1080	1.10	1.10	0.00	0
1,480	930	WCL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	76	49150	74074	1.49	1.53	0.04	+
1,030	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	11.9	6.98	2	450	387	1.87	1.86	-0.01	-
810	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	26.2	0.00	2	5000	2650	2.65	2.65	0.00	0
7,720	2,890	ARAB TRF. INV. EDUC.	7.6	0.00	2	1000	2925	2.93	2.90	-0.03	-
1,220	930	SARKA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	100	93	0.93	0.93	0.00	0
1,010	640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	1	500	335	0.67	0.67	0.00	0
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 107.43 CHNG: -0.18 100 62407 91297											
4,450	3,070	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	27.2	2.72	28	5237	21146	4.05	4.04	-0.01	-
7,050	4,950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.4	3.03	5	796	5053	6.60	6.60	0.00	0
10,250	8,850	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.5	9.05	7	591	5793	9.81	9.82	0.01	+
1,470	1,050	WCL. INDUSTRIES	10.4	8.33	3	400	480	1.25	1.20	-0.05	-
4,100	3,040	ARAB PHARM. IND.	10.8	4.10	16	3308	13056	3.97	3.92	-0.05	-
5,650	4,250	DAR ALDANA DV. INV.	12.7	4.81	13	2473	12865	5.23	5.20	-0.03	-
3,850	2,480	ARAB ALUM. IND.	9.7	10.33	2	450	1089	2.44	2.42	-0.02	-
1,860	1,000	LIVESTOCK POLYTR.	9.5	0.00	9	7650	3451	4.46	4.46	0.00	0
1,310	1,000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	10.6	0.00	5	2200	2200	1.00	1.00	0.00	0
770	510	NATIONAL INDOS.	9	0.00	2	1375	114	0.52	0.52	0.00	0
950	500	JOR. SULPH. CHEN.	9	0.00	3	5950	3234	1.55	1.54	-0.01	-
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEN.	17.1	5.22	5	1121	1501	1.36	1.34	-0.02	-
1,430	860	KAWTHER INVEST.	80.8	0.00	2	150	123	0.86	0.82	-0.04	-
2,020	1,170	UNIV. MOON. INDOS.	P	0.00	6	1250	1452	1.17	1.16	-0.01	-
1,520	1,080	JOR. INDOS. RESOURCES	14.1	9.52	14	5100	5412	1.08	1.05	-0.03	-
1,600	1,300	NATL. CHLORINE	13.0	5.07	5	725	1004	1.41	1.38	-0.03	-
1,090	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.0	0.00	7	3000	4100	0.63	0.62	-0.01	-
2,090	1,420	EL-SAY READY WEAR	15.4	0.00	2	3000	4400	1.47	1.46	-0.01	-
1,330	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.1	0.00	8	21000	23520	1.13	1.12	-0.01	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 126.79 CHNG: -0.16 149 67978 111177											
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 164.29 CHNG: +0.62 290 294550 895109											
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 13/07/1997											
640	350	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	500	185	0.39	0.37	-0.02	-
670	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.5	0.00	14	8000	3470	0.43	0.43	0.00	0
1,550	1,070	SARA FOR INVESTMENT	47.6	0.00	12	3650	4200	1.14	1.16	0.02	+
950	600	JOR. FIN. INV. CO.	9	0.00	12	4150	2603	0.60	0.59	-0.01	-
840	660	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	42	402200	74396	0.68	0.68	0.00	0
680	370	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	5	4250	1925	0.46	0.46	0.00	0
950	610	AL-SHARQ INV. 754	P	0.00	11	17500	8900	0.76	0.76	0.00	0
480	210	AL-DAMLIYAH 754	60.5	0.00	2	2000	750	0.63	0.63	0.00	0
480	210	JOR. INDOS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	5	4000	1080	0.28	0.27	-0.01	-
130	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	1	2000	1060	0.53	0.59	0.06	+
590	380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	3	3250	1268	0.39	0.39	0.00	0
720	450	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	8	150	392	0.47	0.48	0.01	+
750	400	NATL. HOL. GEN. BANKCO	9	0.00	15	7200	3700	0.53	0.53	0.00	0
640	430	KAYAN DYES & HOUDES	9	0.00	6	2150	1041	0.46	0.46	0.00	0
850	710	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	6.76	10	24200	38060	0.74	0.74	0.00	0
1,220	860	UNION TORONCO 754	9	0.00	1	300	335	0.48	0.48	0.00	0
680	550	WAT. AUDIUM INV. 854	9	0.00	4	750	3020	0.78	0.75	-0.03	-
600	340	INDOS. ENG.	20.3	0.00	14	12450	4152	0.34	0.33	-0.01	-
620	390	NATL. POLYTR.	8	0.00	9	1635	1012	0.61	0.62	0.01	+
1,000	760	NAT. AUDIUM INV. 754	P	0.00	2	350	178	0.74	0.75	0.01	+
1,020	720	ARAB TRF. FOOD FACT.	35.7	0.00	19	5500	407	0.74	0.74	0.00	0
670	570	MID-EAST COMPLEX	7.6	16.13	19	16400	10247	0.63	0.62	-0.01	-
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 164.29 CHNG: +0.62 290 294550 895109											

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"A six-figure income is good, but a six-figure cholesterol is bad?"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argenton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ZIMEA
PEBID
RYNWIT
DEAGAN

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: NATAL BRIAR WALNUT MOSQUE
Answer: What the successful musician considered his early music lessons - INSTRUMENTAL

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Lewis keeps title as Akinwande disqualified for holding

STATELINE, Nevada (R) — World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis retained his title Saturday when fellow Briton Henry Akinwande was disqualified at 2:34 of the fifth round by referee Mills Lane for repeated holding.

Akinwande, a 7-1/2 to 5 underdog, was warned several times by Lane and had one point deducted from his score in the second round for holding and refusing to fight.

It was the second straight heavyweight title fight in which the veteran referee disqualified a boxer. Lane did the same to Mike Tyson two weeks ago in his bout against World Boxing Association champion Evander Holyfield after the challenger bit both Holyfield's ears.

Lewis won every round and was the aggressor throughout. Akinwande made it easy for the harder-hitting Lewis by failing to use his physical advantages of speed and reach.

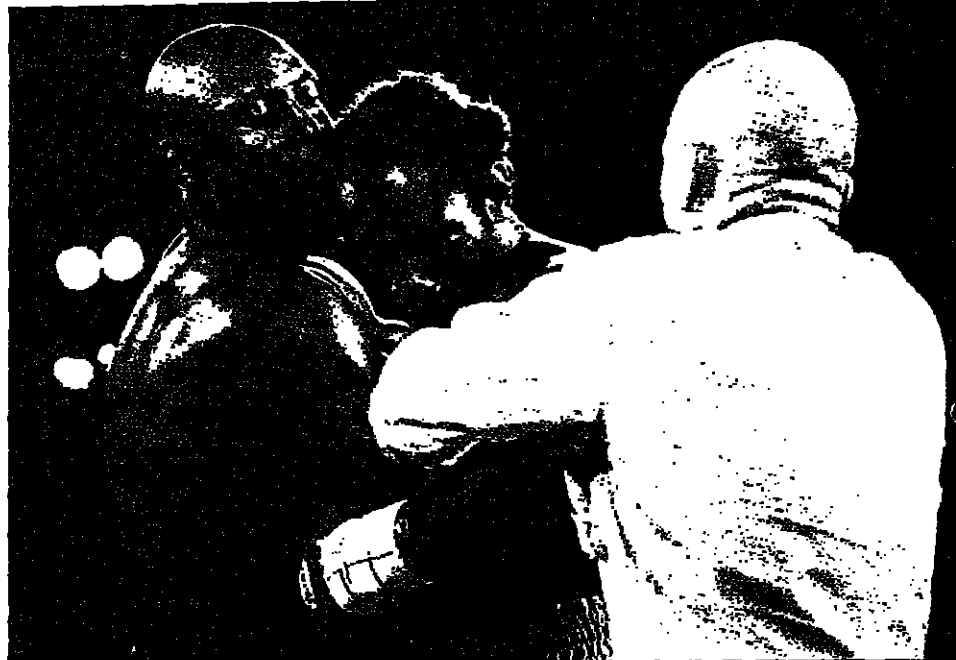
The 6-foot 6-1/2 inch (1.99 metres) Akinwande, who has an 86-inch (2.18 metres) reach, seldom jabbed, threw few combination rights and displayed no foot speed nor lateral movement.

Lewis offered an explanation for Akinwande's lethargic, dreary performance: "I realised he wasn't mentally or physically tougher than me."

Lewis added: "I was disappointed because obviously he didn't want to fight. What can you do if a man doesn't want to fight? All he did was hold."

Akinwande said after the bout that his strategy was to "get close to him" — just the opposite of what the challenger's trainer, Don Turner, had said would be their plan.

In fact, between rounds Turner urged Akinwande to move, jab and punch, as the challenger had done during



Referee Mills Lane (R) breaks up a clutch between Henry Akinwande (L) and Lennox Lewis during the WBC heavyweight title fight in Lake Tahoe. World Boxing Council heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis retained his title on Saturday when fellow Briton Akinwande was disqualified in the fifth round (Reuters photo)

preparation for this bout scheduled for 12 rounds.

Lane did not want to disqualify the fighter, especially since the sport already was tarnished by the Tyson debacle. "It's the worst thing, a DQ is the worst thing," Lane said.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission suspended Akinwande and held his purse of \$1 million. Further action will be decided at a hearing that could come as early as next week.

The commission, which earlier this week suspended Tyson's license for at least one year and fined him \$3 million, under a new Nevada state law passed in the aftermath of his disgrace has the right to hold up to 100 per cent of a fighter's purse. Previously, 10 per cent was the limit.

Although Lewis said that "I'd like to unify the title," there was no immediate talk of a bout between him and the winner of the tentatively scheduled November Holyfield-Michael Moorer fight.

Perhaps an earlier possi-

bility would be a matchup with former undisputed world champion but currently unranked George Foreman, or with some other contender.

One Akinwande punch, a right to the head halfway through the third round, accounted for the only knockdown. The unexpected shot put Lewis on a knee for a split second.

However, Lane did not rule it a knockdown until at the post-fight news conference, admitting he blew the call.

Before and after the knockdown there was little action, mostly grabs and jabs by Akinwande and body shots during clinches by Lewis.

"I didn't want to give him breathing room, and he held," said Lewis, who also was the WBC heavyweight champion in 1993-94.

"I wanted to punch, evidently he didn't. One guy elected to punch in the ring and the other held. What can I do?"

Akinwande did not agree with Lewis's analysis. "I

don't think there was that much holding," said Akinwande.

"We'd just meet and he'd stop me from going inside. I don't think the holding was my fault. Every time the referee asked me to break, I stepped back but Lewis didn't."

Akinwande expressed confusion upon hearing the state commission had held up payment of his purse. "Holding my purse for what? They say I'm not fighting? I knocked him down."

Turner admitted he was dismayed and puzzled at his fighter's performance. "Am I surprised at Henry's inability to get punches off? Yes. You think I'm telling him to hold?"

This was the second straight win for Lewis which ended in an unusual fashion. On February 7 in Las Vegas, he regained his WBC title in the fifth round when American Oliver McCall broke down in tears in his corner.

The 31-year-old Lewis made \$1.5 million.

Sargsian, Steven reach Hall of Fame final

NEWPORT, Rhode Island (R) — Fifth seed Sargsian of Armenia advanced Saturday to his first career ATP Tour final to face eighth seed Brett Steven of New Zealand for the \$255,000 Hall of Fame tennis championships title.

The 24-year-old Sargsian, ranked 86th in the world, beat seventh seed Leander Paes of India 7-6 (7-3) 2-6 6-3.

Steven surprised third seed Grant Safford of South Africa 6-3 5-7 6-4.

Sargsian, the 1995 U.S. national collegiate singles champion while attending Arizona State, won twice in 1996 and reached the final in Bermuda in April on the challenger circuit — a junior series that does not count toward the ATP.

First prize is \$36,200.

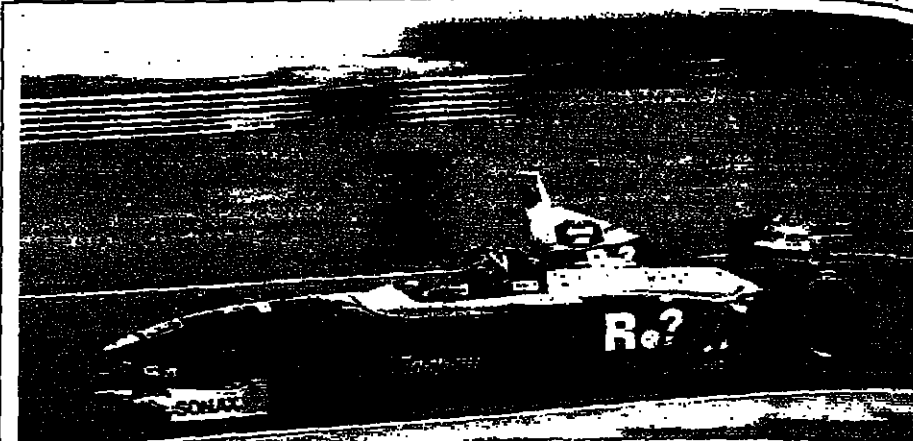
Muster returns

STUTTGART (AFP) — Thomas Muster returns to tennis after a month out through injury with the chance of collecting a hat-trick of titles on the clay at the one-million-dollar ATP Tour event here starting Monday.

The 29-year-old Austrian, ranked fourth in the world, reinjured his thigh in June on grass at Rosmalen, the Netherlands and was forced to skip Wimbledon for the second year in a row.

That was probably no great disappointment for the former world No. 1 who has never prided himself on grass court play.

But it is on the clay where the iron man is expected to always perform well.



Canadian Jacques Villeneuve leads the British Grand Prix at Silverstone in his Williams Renault, July 13. Villeneuve won the race and closed the gap on drivers championship leader Michael Schumacher who was forced to retire from the race with mechanical trouble in his Ferrari (Reuters photo)

U.S. lead Japan 2-0 as ...

BROOKLINE, Massachusetts (R) — Mary Joe Fernandez and Olympic champion Lindsay Davenport lifted the United States to a 2-0 lead over Japan after the first day of their Fed Cup World Group One playoff Saturday.

Fernandez, ranked 13th in the world, dropped her first set to Japan's 25th-ranked Ai Sugiyama before prevailing 4-6 6-2 6-2. Eighth-ranked Lindsay Davenport then needed only 57 minutes to overpower 45th-rated Naoko Sawamatsu 6-1 6-3.

Fernandez, surviving some shaky shotmaking and the slashing returns of her opponent, needed more than two hours to dispose of Sugiyama.

In the first set, there was not a service held until Sugiyama took the fourth game for a 3-1 lead.

Although Fernandez broke back to even the match at 3-3, Sugiyama broke right back in the next game and eventually ran out the set in the 10th game, taking a long deuce game with a "backhand winner down the line."

"I still felt confident because I knew that even in the first set I was in every game — it wasn't like I was getting blown away," said Fernandez.

Serving with authority and cutting down on her unforced errors, Fernandez took command in the second and third sets.

"I tried to come in a little bit, be more aggressive after the first set. I know she loves pace and I tried to mix things up a little more," said Fernandez.

"I hit the ball deep in the first set and in the second set Mary Joe hit the ball deeper," said Sugiyama.

"She also started serving better and you could tell it helped her confidence. The second set was the real turning point."

Fernandez was not expecting an easy match because when the two met a year ago in the Wimbledon fourth round, she also needed three long sets to survive.

Davenport displayed her superiority early. She lost on serve only once, in the second game of the match, but then blasted away for five straight games to complete the first set. With a 5-3 lead in the second set, the big Californian served out the match at love.

The winner this weekend advances to the 1998 World Group One matches. The United States already crashed out of this year's championships, losing 3-2 to the Netherlands in February.

... Spain beat Australia 3-2 in Fed Cup

HOPE ISLAND, Australia (AFP) — Arancha Sanchez Vicario spearheaded Spain's Fed Cup squad to a 3-2 victory over Australia here Sunday with two storming singles wins.

Spain clinched the tie by wrapping up both reverse singles in cold conditions. Sanchez Vicario routed Australia's top player Annabel Ellwood Sunday to take her second singles vic-

tory of this World Group 1 play-off with a 6-2, 6-0 victory in 57 minutes.

In the other singles match Sunday, young left-hander Maria Luisa Serna overcame a bout of nerves to beat Rachel McQuillan 6-1, 6-3.

The win keeps Spain in the top eight-nation group in the Fed Cup.

Sanchez Vicario, the world number eight, opened strongly to capture Ellwood's serve in the first game.

The Australian had two break points at the fourth game but failed to win them.

"I think I served very well," said Sanchez Vicario. The Spanish ace won decisively, hitting her fore-

hand deep and rushing the net for decisive points.

Ellwood said that her game plan had been to play to Sanchez Vicario's forehand and attack. "But she said she had been given little chance to do that," she said.

Sanchez Vicario "works so hard for her points," Ellwood said.

The Spaniard is emerging from the first big slump of her 12 year playing career and showed her improved form by reaching the semi-finals in Wimbledon.

She says that she is building up to the U.S. Open in August.

"I am getting in the right direction to be back to my 100 per cent form," she said.

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2) The Arab potash co., Ltd
3) The Jordan Cement Factories Co., Ltd
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2.	F.P.C. 2/97	Supply of General Tyres & Tubes	THURSDAY 28/8/1997

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LIAR LIAR		DRACULA DEAD & LOVING IT		JERRY MAGUIRE		Harrison Ford & Brad Pitt...in	
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15		Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		DEVIL'S OWN	
		GONE WITH THE WIND				CONCORD "2"	
		Show: 8:30 p.m. only				Michael Jordan...in	
						SPACEJAM	
						Shows: 3:30, 6:00	
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Opening of Pan-Arab Games clouded by ban on Iraqi athletes

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Arab World's biggest sporting extravaganza opened on Saturday evening amid pomp and ceremony as disgruntled Iraqi athletes reluctantly gave up their protest at Lebanon's refusal to let them take part.

The opening gala for the 8th Pan-Arab Games was attended by numerous Lebanese and international dignitaries including President Elias Hrawi, International Olympic Committee Chairman Juan Antonio Samaranch and Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, and tens of thousands of spectators.

Some 3,000 athletes from 19 Arab countries, along with hundreds of trainers and administrators and thousands of foreign spectators, are in Beirut for the Games which run until July 27.

But the 95-member Iraqi team, barred from taking part after pressure from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, gave up their protest just a few hours before the opening ceremony and headed back to Baghdad via Syria.

"We are leaving with lots of bitterness in our hearts because of this inhospitable change of attitude and the fact that our Lebanese brothers have been the victims of Kuwaiti blackmail," delegation leader Acil Tabra said.

The incident could sour the relationship between the two countries, which had recently begun reactivating trade ties for the first time in three years.

Before leaving the isolated Syrian-Lebanese border post at Masnaa, the Iraqi athletes cut the throats of sheep, chanted slogans hailing President Saddam Hussein and waved banners reading "sport unites, but we are prevented from meeting our brothers."

The Iraqis had been stranded since early Friday after making the grueling 24-hour journey from Baghdad by road despite Lebanon's warning that they would not be allowed into the country.

A Lebanese official said the authorities imposed the ban for fear of upsetting Gulf Arab states. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which have been



Spectators watch fireworks explode over Beirut's stadium during the opening ceremony of Pan-Arab Games late. The event is the biggest international event Lebanon has staged since the 15-year civil war ended in 1990 (Reuters photo)

pouring funds into Lebanon to help it rebuild after its devastating 1975-1990 civil war, have threatened to boycott the Games if Iraq took part.

Riyadh contributed \$20 million and Kuwait six million dollars to the reconstruction of the Beirut Sports City where the Games are taking place, which was flattened by Israeli warplanes in 1982.

The Iraqis complained that they received an official invitation to the Games and accused Lebanon of selling out to the wealthy Gulf Arab states.

"The Pan-Arab Games should unify Arab youth and not be a bringer of division and submission to worshippers of the U.S. dollar," Tabra said.

In Baghdad, the Babel newspaper run by Saddam's eldest son, Uday, said: "It is shameful that the Lebanese government has succumbed to financial pressures and has sold itself for a few million dollars."

The Iraqi National Olympic Committee, chaired by Uday, also blamed the Arab League, which originally invited the Iraqi athletes to participate.

"We denounce this cowardly act by Lebanon, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia,

and we pay homage to the Arab League and its secretary general for this lamentable failure," Babel said.

Meguid tried unsuccessfully on Wednesday to persuade Lebanon to allow the Iraqi athletes to participate in the Games.

Kuwait, for its part, hailed the Lebanese ban.

"This decision is the most important medal the Lebanese could award us," the president of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd Al Sabah, said Friday.

Lebanon, which cut diplomatic relations with Iraq in 1994 after an Iraqi dissident was assassinated in Beirut, has begun reactivating trade links with Baghdad in recent months.

Iraq was banned from the last Pan-Arab Games in Syria in 1992 because of the invasion of Kuwait two years earlier, but its athletes travelled to Jordan anyway to demonstrate at the Syrian border.

The Arab Games were launched in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1953 and are generally held at four-year intervals.

They had been planned for 1996 in Beirut, but were delayed because of Israel's offensive against Lebanon which killed 175 people, mostly civilians.

Pan-Arab Games off to late start after big opening ceremony

Jordan earns gold, bronze medals on first day

By Aileen Bannayan
with agency dispatches

THE 8TH PAN-ARAB GAMES got off to a late start Sunday after a night of unprecedented festivities in post-war Lebanon.

A mother of three from Algeria won the first gold medal of the Games on Sunday, clocking 1:26:40 in the 21-kilometre women's marathon.

Tunisian Sonya Akkoun, 30, won the silver medal with a time of 1:28:03. Jordan's Amal Al Matari, 19, finished third at 1:29:02, earning the Kingdom's first bronze medal.

Jordan's Nada Kassar won Jordan's first gold medal of the Games when she scored 51.18 metres in the discus.

Kassar has another chance for a gold medal in the shot put in which she holds the Arab record at 17.39 metres.

Jordan's Firas Malkawi came in sixth in the men's marathon, while teammate Tareq Najjar came seventh in the shot put.

The men's marathon began 40 minutes late and pushed other events behind schedule.

Just 11 men vied for the gold medal in the 42.195-kilometre marathon through the streets of Beirut.

Tunisian Attaher Mansour, 30, captured the gold medal with a time of 2:28:19.

Egypt's Foula Seliman, 27, finished

second for the silver, clocking 2:30:45.

The bronze went to 29-year-old Ahmad Adam of Sudan, who lost time when a referee's escorting vehicle bumped into his thigh about 15 kilometres from the finish line at the Camille Chamoun Stadium. He finished with a time of 2:35:35.

Besides the marathons, five other golds were up for grabs on the first day of competition in the Games, which run through July 27.

As the soccer competition got underway, Jordan and Lebanon drew 1-1 and Kuwait beat Mauritania 3-1.

Over 3,000 athletes have converged on Beirut for the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992.

With Iraqi athletes barred from competition because of a boycott threat by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, 19 countries are taking part with only Somalia and the Comoros missing the event.

Jordan's soccer, basketball, athletics, fencing, boxing, and weightlifting teams took part in Saturday's opening ceremony. They will be joined by the rest of the teams during this week with each team arriving in Beirut one day prior to their events and leaving following the end of their respective competitions.

Twenty events have been set for the Games excluding kick-boxing, handball, gymnastics, body-building,

hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

The Kingdom's 187-strong delegation which includes 94 men and 33 women athletes will be competing in 14 of the 20 events. The delegation also includes 27 officials, 20 coaches and 13 referees.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and will be competing in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, fencing, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf and yachting.

Drug testing was introduced for the first time since the Arab Games were launched in 1953, in line with international rules. All gold medalists are being tested for performance-enhancing drugs, as is one other competitor selected in a draw in each event.

The Games got off to a late start Sunday after a night of unprecedented festivities. Referee Mohammed Tabbara said the late start of competition Sunday morning was because Saturday's 2-1/2 hour opening ceremonies with parades, fireworks and laser shows began late.

"Everybody was tired," he said.

Lebanon is hosting the Arab World's premier sports event for the first time since the second Arab Games in 1957.

Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 and Jordanian sports officials have underlined the importance of taking part in the event which has only been held seven times since 1953.

But the Games, designed to emphasise Arab brotherhood, were clouded by Lebanon's refusal to grant the Iraqi team entry visas for fear of angering Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, highlighting once again the influence of politics over sports.

After waiting two days at the Lebanese-Syrian border in hopes of entering Lebanon, Iraq's team of 97 athletes, trainers and officials gave up late Saturday and headed back home (see separate story).

Jordan has taken part in all past seven Pan-Arab Games gaining a total of 46 medals (7 gold, 16 silver, 26 bronze).

The Kingdom's first and only gold medal in a team sport came in Morocco in 1985 when Jordan won the basketball event after defeating Iraq 80-78 in the final.

Jordan finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games in 1992 Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

Basketball competition gets underway today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The basketball competition gets underway at the Arab Games Monday with hosts Lebanon meeting Qatar, and Saudi Arabia taking on Morocco.

"The Kingdom's team will play their first match against Libya Tuesday when the UAE also play Kuwait."

Jordan is in Group 1 with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Libya, and Morocco. Group 2 includes Lebanon, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. The top two teams in each group will contest the semifinal round starting July 23.

As the Games got underway Saturday, Jordan again protested at the men's basketball draw since rules stipulate that the nine competing teams should be divided into three groups with the titleholders (Syria) atop one group, the runner

up (Jordan) in another and the hosts (Lebanon) in the third.

Lebanese officials said Jordan's representative had not lodged a formal protest at the time of the draw and an oral one would not be accepted now.

While the basketball federation had threatened to pull out of both the men's and women's events if the draw was not repeated, the head of the Kingdom's delegation to the Games Sari Hamdan said Jordan would not pull out of any event since that is no longer the

affair of respective federations but a decision that rested with the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) and the Ministry of Youth.

Jordan had won the first gold medal in team sports when the basketball team clinched the gold medal in the 1985 Games in Morocco. They finished runner-up behind Syria in the 1992 Games in Syria.

With tough competition ahead and a relatively inexperienced new lineup representing the Kingdom, Jordan will have to finish first or second in their group to

qualify for the second round.

The team is coached by a new Ukrainian coach and the players' form was inconsistent when they won only one out of three friendly matches against Syria two weeks ago.

The lineup includes Fadi Saqqa, Yousef Abu Bakr, Husam Lutfi, Ma'an Odeh, Naser Alawneh, Faisal Nsour, and Mahmoud Sha'ban who were boosted by the arrival from the U.S. of Zeid Alkhas, a key player who has just returned from Korea after an impressive performance in the Asian All-Star Game to which he was chosen during the 1995 Asian Championships.

Jumana Salti, who was also chosen as one of the Asian Championships' top players also was a welcome addition to the women's basketball team who were unimpressive in friendly matches against Syria losing three of their matches.

The team was, however,

given the go-ahead to take part in the Games by the Minister of Youth and Sports who prompted the JOC to include them to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped to take part in the Asian Championship. Jordan will face tough competition against strong teams from Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria when the women's event starts Tuesday with Syria taking on Lebanon.

Jordan plays the first match against Egypt Wednesday.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

Lebanon's Barikian, 13, youngest competitor

Djibouti sends 1 athlete

BEIRUT (AP) — Some facts and figures about the 8th Arab Games being played in Beirut through July 27.

Participation: The 22 members of the Cairo-headquartered Arab League are eligible to participate, but only 19 are taking part. Lebanon refused visas to the Iraqi team, while Somalia and Comoros are not taking part.

Venue: Main events will be held at the Camille Chamoun Stadium, which Palestinian guerrillas turned into a base during Lebanon's civil war and Israeli forces razed in 1982. It was rebuilt over the last three years at a cost of \$75 million.

Events: Twenty sports were scheduled, but four events were canceled for lack of players: kick boxing for men and women, women's cycling, women's golf and women's yachting.

Big and small: Host Lebanon with 563 athletes, coaches, trainers and administrators will have the biggest delegation. Djibouti is sending one athlete. Lebanon's table tennis player Liza Barikian at 13 is the youngest competitor.

History: Arab Games were first proposed in 1947 by Abdul Rahman Azzam, then secretary-general of the Arab League. The first Games were held in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1953 with eight countries participating.

Closures: The 110-metre women's hurdles, scheduled for early Sunday, was postponed as the hurdles were locked up in a room and organisers couldn't find the keys.

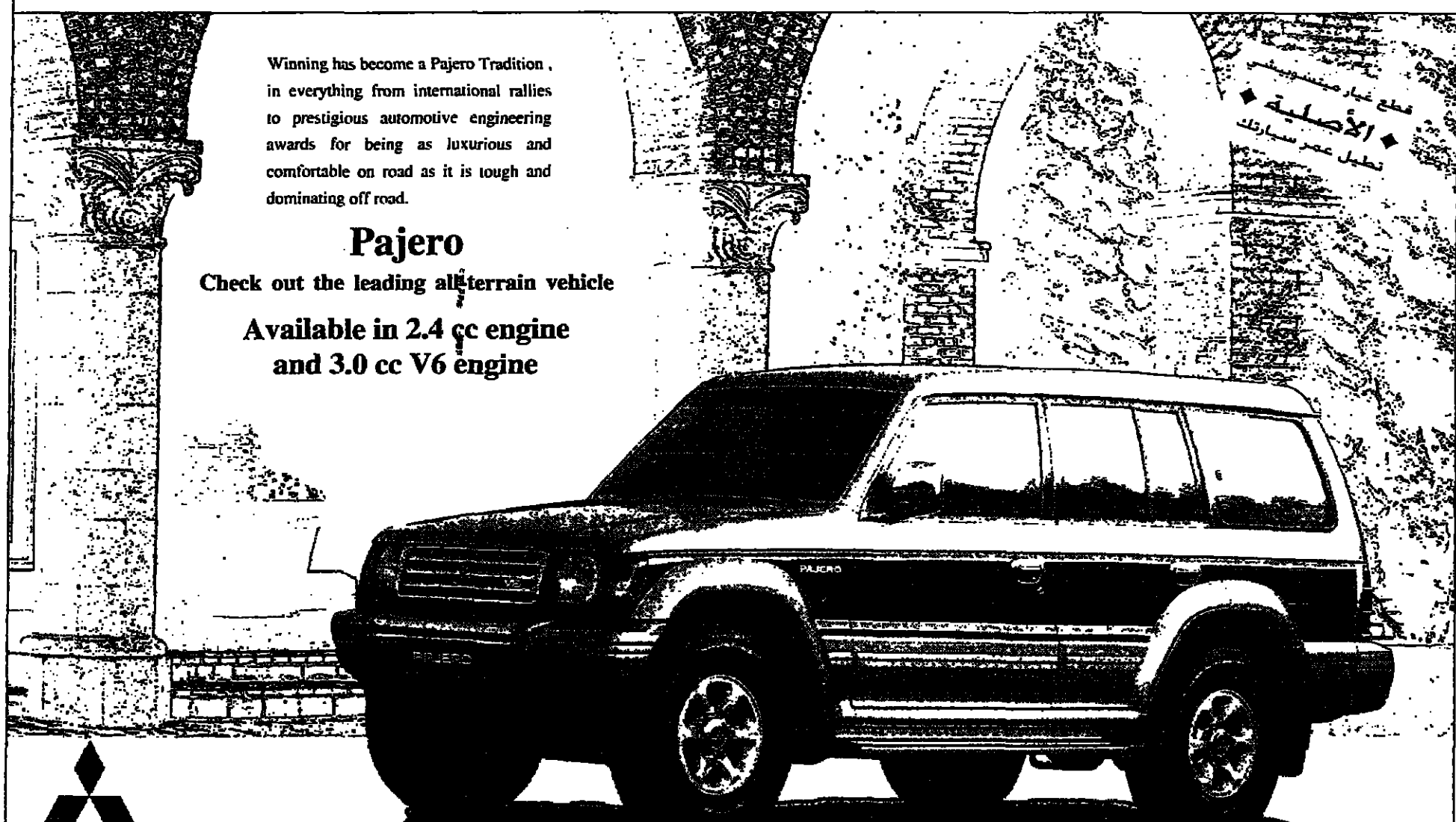
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